



VALUE YOUR VINTAGE MODEL TOYS!

9-PAGES OF THE LATEST AUCTION RESULTS INSIDE

COLLECTORS GAZETTE

March 2022 • Issue No 456 • www.ccofgb.co.uk • £3.99

PLUS
The latest
hobby news
inside!



FIREBALL XL5

Remembering the
futuristic Gerry Anderson
collectables that found
fame on the small screen

» MINIX MANIA

The affordable
collecting theme you
are looking for!

» TOY FAIR REPORT

We visit the very first
Kinver swapmeet!

NEW SERIES

» LOST BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Looking at unusual diecasts from
Kembo, Jolly Roger and more...



Display until 18/03/2022



03

WARNERS
GROUP PUBLICATIONS LTD

9 770957 630186

The John Garside Toy Collection

18 March 2022



Special Auction Services is very privileged to be offering the remarkable John Garside Toy Collection at auction: John was truly a legend in toy circles and a great friend to many. A stalwart member of the Maidenhead Static Model Club for decades and past organiser of the Windsor Swapmeet, few will forget the sight of John hurtling round the Montem Centre, cajoling the stall holders with his friendly banter. He took an idiosyncratic approach to collecting, avoiding the obvious, thus his focus was on such makes as CIJ, Gamda, River Series, Timpo, Milton, Maxwell, Nicky Toys, AR, Palitoy, Wend-Al and others. The auction will be an opportunity for collectors to bid for some extraordinary rarities amongst John's numerous treasures.

Please contact: Dominic Foster, Dave Kemp or Bob Leggett
on + 44 (0)1635 580595 or mail@specialauctionservices.com

Special Auction Services
Plenty Close, Off Hambridge Road, Newbury RG14 5RL



CONTENTS IN THIS ISSUE...

03 NEWS

The latest news from the world of collecting.

08 SUBSCRIPTION OFFER

Save money and never miss another issue!

09 WHAT'S THE YEAR?

Alwyn Brice looks back on a specific year and asks "what's the year?"

10 BATTLE OF THE GIANTS

Mark Nolan profiles the designers of the UK's fastest steam locos.

12 MINIX MANIA

Looking for an affordable collecting theme? Alwyn Brice has a potential answer.

16 LOST BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

In the first of a three-part series, Alwyn Brice digs out some unusual diecasts from the back of his sofa.

18 VINTAGE TEDDY BEARS

We address the tricky issue of what constitutes a good buy...

20 10-MINUTE EXPERT

All you need to know about the big names in collecting.

22 FAMOUS TV & FILM FACES

Remembering collectables that found fame through the silver screen.

24 EBUYS

Our guide to what's been selling well on eBay this month.

28 PRICE GUIDE

Find out what your toys could be worth in our auction round-up.

37 TOY STORIES

Were the models produced a realistic representation? Ed Karswell takes a look...

38 OUT AND ABOUT

Ann Evans visits the latest addition to the toy collecting scene.

42 OBSOLETE OZ

What gems has Oz uncovered this month on his travels?

44 EVENT GUIDE

Plan your diary for the month ahead with our toy fair and auction listings.

45 AUCTIONEER LISTING

Sale rooms from across the country, all in one place!

» **Publisher**
Claire Ingram
claire.ingram@warnersgroup.co.uk

» **Editor**
Cathy Herron 01778 391167
cathyh@warnersgroup.co.uk

» **Advertising Manager**
Kristina Green 01778 392096
kristina.green@warnersgroup.co.uk

» **Production Manager**
Nicola Glossop 01778 392420
nicola.glossop@warnersgroup.co.uk

» **Production Assistant**
Charlotte Bamford 01778 395081
charlotte.bamford@warnersgroup.co.uk

» **Head of Design** Lynn Wright
lynnw@warnersgroup.co.uk

» **Marketing Manager**
Katherine Brown 01778 395092
katherine.brown@warnersgroup.co.uk

» **Marketing Executive**
Luke Hider 01778 395085
luke.hider@warnersgroup.co.uk

» **Newstrade Distribution**
Warners Group Publications Ltd
Tel: 01778 391150

» **Printing**
Warners Midlands Plc, The Maltings,
West Street, Bourne, Lincs PE10 9PH
Tel: 01778 391000

Collectors Gazette is published monthly by Warners Group Publications Plc, The Maltings, West Street, Bourne, Lincolnshire PE10 9PH, UK.

This publication is printed by Warners 01778 395111

DISCLAIMER The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the editor and publisher. Every care is taken to ensure that the content of this magazine is accurate, but we assume no responsibility for any effect from errors or omissions. While every care is taken with material submitted for publication, we cannot be held responsible for loss or damage. No part of this magazine may be published without the prior permission of the publisher. While every care is taken when accepting advertisements, we are not responsible for the quality and/or the performance of goods and/or services advertised in this magazine or any unsatisfactory transactions. The Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) exists to regulate the content of advertisements. Tel: 020 7429 2222.

■ AUCTION REVIEW



In a galaxy far, far away...

Yes, *Stars Wars* was flavour of the month in the January C & T Auctioneers sale. You may not relish the fact, but this genre simply refuses to go away...

Almost 350 lots comprised the sale, with over 50% devoted to Obi Wan Kenobi et al. Three Yak Faces (unblistered) each made £200 or more (a carded version realising £1,650 – quite a difference); an 11 inch Luke doll from Palitoy in a window box sold for £130; and a mint boxed Palitoy *Star Wars* Cantina Action playset hit a high note at £520. There were dozens of loose *Star Wars* figures, sold in groupings, but some choice carded examples also went under the hammer. How about

the Palitoy General Mills *Star Wars: Return of The Jedi* Tri Logo R2-D2 with pop-up lightsabre? He achieved a cool £1,100, not a bad return on his original price of £1.59. In the same series a *Return of The Jedi* Lando Calrissian (general pilot) went for £340, being pipped at the post by Luke Skywalker (in a battle poncho) at £360. Mind you, £1,850 was required to bag the same fellow in an Imperial Stormtrooper outfit...

There were some great sci-fi diecasts sold and James Bond occupied a useful niche: the tinplate Japanese Aoshin James Bond's Secret Agent Aston Martin DB5 Action Car, (actually an unlicensed Gilbert version with covered up labelling!) made £660, whilst the

A mint boxed Palitoy *Star Wars* Cantina Action playset hit a high note at £520.

Scalextric James Bond set was taken to £1,350. Finally, a truly stunning mint example of the gold Corgi DB5 sold for an eye-watering £800, twice the estimate.

Bargains? The Louis Marx Toys (this of British manufacture) Sir Percival Gold Knight from the noble knight series, complete with armour and fighting accessories, in excellent original condition, went for just £30; and a pair of boxed Marx Toys *Dr Who* and the *Daleks* Rolykins, in plastic and each with eye, gun and manipulator arm (one in black and gold, the other in silver and gold), sold for £60. ■



**YOUR SUBSCRIPTION,
HAVE IT YOUR WAY!
SAVE OVER 16%**

Turn to page 8 to find out more...

■ AUCTION REVIEW

Trains lead at Sheffield sale

Sheffield Auction Gallery got the new year off to a steaming start with a host of railway collectables, along with grouped lots of diecasts. On the railway front an unusual A Stronlite 0 gauge/7mm (Japanese) three rail 0-4-0 Steam Tank Locomotive, (LNER R/No 5400) in fair unboxed condition, plus a Sytronlite controller and three items of rolling stock chugged off to make £100; while seven 0 gauge Darstead boxed tank wagons, one with bogies and wheels, six with bogies only, in very good condition, were knocked down for £90. A winning bid of £100 secured a quartet of Hornby Dublo OO gauge 4-6-2 Steam Locomotives and Tenders, all of which had been overpainted or renovated and converted to two rail; these included two BR blue A4s, "Sir Ralph Wedgwood" and "Dominion of South Africa", two Duchess Class, "Sir William Stainer" in LMS maroon and a "City of Sheffield" in BR gloss green.



ABOVE: Big stuff for the outdoors: this L.G.B.G. gauge boxed 0-6-0 Tank locomotive sold for £170.

RIGHT: Sutcliffe Minx speedboat was in very good condition and all ready for the water.



Several locomotive works building plates also went under the hammer: prices varied from £190 to £700 for a Gorton example.

Six blistered Dinky '289' Routemaster Buses, all in red livery with Esso Safety Grip Tyre logos and contained in blisters were sold for just £40; this was one of several lots of multiple buses or coaches. Sci-fi fans homed in on four Dinky examples, though, namely the Maximum Security Vehicle with a red stripe, a Spectrum

Patrol Car, a Spectrum Pursuit Vehicle and the USS Enterprise: this selection raised £160.

As for pond life, how about a Sutcliffe Model Boat, the 'Minx Speedboat'? Showing some corrosion and paint chips, contained in a poor box, this clockwork delight settled on £180.

Surprise of the event might well have been 13 copies of the famous *Beano* comic, all from the wartime era: someone wanted them enough to pay £550. ■

■ AUCTION REVIEW

Records at Vectis



In stunning condition, the dark blue horse drawn milk float is a rarely-encountered model.

No, not the vinyl variety – the toys. Several recent auctions saw some astonishing final bids.

How about the Dinky 145 Singer Vogue, which realised £2,160? Well, it was the yellow-bodied variant, by all accounts hard to find. Or there was the Dinky 156 Rover 75 Saloon in two-tone violet over cream, although I cannot imagine that the real thing ever sported such a garish colour scheme. But it was another scarcity, finally settling on £1,200. Even a humble Dinky Hillman Imp, with a blue body but set off with a pale blue interior, seized the imagination of those bidding: this raised almost £800.

A couple of Milton Toys (essentially Dinky copies) also surprised: a Shell/Burmah tanker in yellow and white made

£432 while a Leyland Octopus Caltex tanker in white and blue was contested to £480. Both were boxed.

Elsewhere, a Chad Valley No 9235 Fordson Major Tractor in dark blue with orange hubs was of interest: it retained its buff box and was described as generally better than good. This raised £240, almost doubling estimate.

But early Matchbox prices remain bonkers: a rare boxed light blue and red Moko Merry-go-round raised £3,840; while £3,000 was paid for light green Rag & Bone cart, although this was eclipsed by an extremely rare blue horse drawn milk float which sold for £3,120. Finally, seldom sighted, not one but two large scale soap box racers with their original drivers made £4,320 and £5,040. ■

NEW RELEASES
THIS MONTH



CORGI CURTISS P-40B WARHAWK, 155/41-13317
PEARL HARBOR 80TH ANNIVERSARY
Price: £59.99 Scale: 1/72 Release: out now
Released to commemorate the 80th anniversary of Pearl Harbor, this latest version of its Curtiss Warhawk is a great replica by Corgi. With display stand.
» www.corgi.co.uk

IXO MG METRO 6R4 #1 SCOTTISH RALLY 1991 CHAMPIONSHIP WINNER MILNE/WILSON

Price: £43.99 Scale: 1/43 Release: out now
The mighty Metro 6R4 always makes for a dramatic model and Ixo's 1/43 replica is a corker. Great shape, superb finish and the simple graphics are well done.
» www.ayrey.co.uk



More
new releases
reviewed at
ccofgb.co.uk

■ AUCTION REVIEW

Rare Dinkies at SAS

The SAS January two-day toy sale probably featured the widest variety of toys ever seen at the auction house; and such was the interest that an excellent hammer total of £123,000 resulted.

The sale commenced with a collection of CMC vehicles, with top price of £600 bid for a 1/18 scale Ferrari 250 CTO. Star of the sale, though, had to be the rare promotional

Dinky Toy Ford Anglia: it was finished in pale green with a red interior, and had specially been produced for a few dignitaries for the opening of the new Ford factory at Halewood. Two Ford fanciers battled it out, until one of the bidders netted it for £3,000. The next best lot was arguably a rare South African made Dinky MGB in blue, which sold for £1,000.

You can't escape *Star*

Wars: several lots sold well, with a R2-D2 carded figure making £340. A small section of Pokemon Cards also sold, with one set hitting the £300 mark.

Chad Valley buses featured in several lots, with a rare aluminium Green Line example selling for £340. Travel Agents' models and other display aircraft sold very well, too, with two Comets making £500 each. A large marine section included

Extremely scarce pale green Anglia was undoubtedly the high spot at the SAS sale.



several tin boats: a large clockwork destroyer here fetched £750. Frog, Revell and Airfix kits also went under the hammer, with one collection of bagged Airfix models reaching £320. A large Britains

section included a No 9599 Tractors and Implements Set (which sold for £400) while the Toy Soldier section did not disappoint either, with a Heyde British Army set settling on £1,700. ■

■ AUCTION REVIEW

Lots on show at Warwick

Warwick and Warwick's January sale saw a huge array of toys go under the hammer and there were railway items and diecasts aplenty for the connoisseur. In the latter category, a pair of Spot-On orange Land Rovers, each sporting a contrasting blue crane and each contained within a window box, sold for a respectable £320. Another lot featured some diminutive Dublo Dinky miniatures and included a Ford Prefect No.061, a Singer Roadster No.62,

a Commer Van No.063, an Austin Lorry No.064 and a Morris Pickup No.065: this mint collection raised £160.

If job lots are your thing, then a good Dinky sextet comprised a Cadillac Eldorado No.131 in dusky pink, an Alfa Romeo No.185 in red, a Hudson Hornet No.174 (painted in grey over yellow), a green Vanwall No.239, a white Mercedes Benz Racing Car No.237 and a VW Karmann Ghia No.187 in red. In generally good plus to excellent condition, they were bid to a creditable £370.

As for the railway segment, there was much



This LGB gauge 1 Bernina Express 641 Ge 4/4 overhead electric locomotive (No 22420) was mint in an excellent box with instructions and made £270.

of interest. A Hornby Dublo clockwork pre-war Southern green 2594 N2 Class 0-6-2T locomotive, No DL7, exhibited some chipping but despite this fact, it made £700. In contrast, the Hornby Dublo BR

34005 Barnstaple rebuilt West Country Class 4-6-2 locomotive and tender, described as excellent and in a good plus box, was taken away for just £75.

It wasn't all about Hornby, though: a

selection of Wrenn steam locomotives included a GWR green 7029 Clun Castle 4-6-0 No W2247 and a BR maroon 46245 City of London 4-6-2 No W2226, together with a LMS maroon 2679 4MT 2-6-4T No W2219, a BR green 31340 class R1 0-6-0T No W2206 and a LMS red 7420 Class R1 0-6-0T No W2204: this attractive lot was knocked down for £200. There was also a fair bit of competition for the LGB gauge 1 ESG green and black 104 Zell 0-6-6-0T locomotive (No 2085D), which finally settled on £230. ■



SCHUCO CASE INTERNATIONAL 1455XL TRACTOR

Price: £16.99 Scale: 1/87 Release: out now
Schuco's classic era tractor features glazed cab with wiper, driving mirrors and black interior. It has a front weight, fixed rear linkage and hook.
» www.schuco.de

CORGI LAND ROVER BREAKDOWN TRUC

Price: £21.99 Scale: 1/43 Release: out now
A splendid recreation of the original No 417S, complete with suspension (hence the "S"). A total 'blast from the past' - we absolutely love this! Excellent price too.
» www.corgi.co.uk



DID YOU KNOW WE ARE MORE THAN JUST A MAGAZINE?



www.ccofgb.co.uk



[www.twitter.com/CollectorClubGB](https://twitter.com/CollectorClubGB)



www.facebook.com/CollectorsClubOfGreatBritain/



www.instagram.com/ccofgb



www.youtube.com/CollectorsClubofGB

■ HOBBY NEWS

Hero Toys list for 2022 is here



Organisers of the Toy Fair, the British Toy & Hobby Association (BTHA) today announced the winners of Toy Fair's Hero Toys 2022, with Bandai, Character Options, and VTech amongst the winners at the first Toy Fair since the start of the pandemic.

Used as a barometer for what themes will be fashionable in the year ahead, this year's Toy Fair's Hero Toys include a selection of popular licenses such as Spiderman, CocoMelon and Hey Duggee, a range of products that represent family play, and STEM toys including a medical science kit.

The latest data from The Insights Family shows that the popularity of STEM toys has increased by 122% year-on-year (November

2020 – November 2021), with the majority of this growth driven by girls, where the category has more than doubled in popularity amongst them.*

"Despite challenges in 2021, this year's list of Toy Fair's Hero Toys represents the creativity and continued commitment to innovation by the toy industry to enhance children's play experiences," commented Rebecca Deeming, Public Relations & Events Manager for the BTHA. "The competition for selection has been strong, and the list is filled with the potential biggest sellers for 2022. While many themes are represented across the 23, educational toys are clearly becoming more popular with consumers, reflected in the higher demand for STEM toys. I'd expect more toy companies to respond to this demand in 2022."

The Toy Fair's Hero Toys list consists of 23 products launched at Olympia London on the first day of Toy Fair 2022. The Hero Toy finalists are judged by an independent panel of retailers, and industry experts, to be the most exciting and creative toys unveiled at the event:

- Bladez Toyz Ltd 1:10 R/C Gotham City™ Racer - £49.99
- Bandai UK Ltd Tamagotchi 25th Anniversary Edition - £24.99
- Character Options SpyBots T.R.I.P. - £22.99
- Epoch Making Toys Ltd Pony's Stylish Hair salon - £69.99
- Flair GP Unique Eyes - £24.99
- Gibsons Troopers on Tour - £16.00
- Golden Bear Hey Duggee Transforming Space Rocket - £44.99
- John Adams Leisure Ltd Monster Mash - £19.99
- Just Play CocoMelon Learning Adventure Bus - £69.99

All Hero Toys will be released over the next 12 months and cover a wide variety of price points, age ranges and play patterns. ■

COLLECTORS GAZETTE

Coming up NEXT MONTH

APRIL 2022 ISSUE



» UP, UP AND AWAY...

Perhaps the most under-rated toys of all time - the humble paper glider!

» 10-MINUTE EXPERT

All you need to know about collecting vintage Benbro's toys and models.

» GUIDES & EVENTS

Your one-stop shop for all the essential info you need!

ON SALE 18 MARCH
www.ccofgb.co.uk

*Editorial contents may be subject to change where necessary

NEW RELEASES THIS MONTH



**WHITEBOX SAAB 96 V4
BLACK 1970**

Price: £30.99 Scale: 1/24 Release: out now

An absolutely beautiful replica, at a bargain price too. Sumptuous paint finish and the shape is totally spot on. Marvellous.

» www.ayrey.co.uk

AUTOCULT 1947 ISOTTA-FRASCCHINI 8C MONTEROSA ZAGATO

Price: £110.00 Scale: 1/43 Release: out now

A large and expensive saloon, with its 3.4-litre engine at the rear. In two-tone blue, with light beige interior. A must for lovers of the unusual.

» www.autocult.de





THE COLLECTABLES AUCTION HOUSE

As a family business we care for your items as much as you do

Model Railways & Vintage Toys
Upcoming auctions:
26th March 2022

**Model Railways, Vintage Toys, Diecast Models, Comics, Posters, Movie,
Music, Travel and Advertising Memorabilia & Autographs**

hello@excaliburauctions.com T: 020 3633 0913 www.excaliburauctions.com
16 Abbots Business Park, Primrose Hill, Kings Langley WD4 8FR

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

YOUR WAY!

Pick the rate that suits you and your budget!

With offers starting from as little as £10.99 a quarter, subscribing really is the cheapest and easiest way to receive the paper magazine to your door every month!



SAVE
UP TO
17%*

Save money every issue | Quarterly, annual or one-off options available

To view our latest subscription offers go to
ccofgb.uk/gaz-mysub22 or call
01778 392480 and quote **GAZ/MYSUB22**

READ ON ANY DEVICE, ANYWHERE, ANYTIME!

Keep up to date with all the latest collecting news, along with in-depth features on vintage diecast, railways, tinsplate and TV & film models one week before it's available in the shops when buying the digital edition at pktmags.com/gaz22



*Saving is based on UK annual Direct Debit rate and is correct as of print 21.01.2022. For overseas subscription pricing visit ccofgb.uk/gaz-mysub22

What was the year?

Alwyn Brice invites you to dig into the memory banks and come up with the year.

This year's weather made the headlines when in the US, dozens of cities suffered extreme temperatures, through a phenomenon that became known as the 'Chicago Heatwave'. An estimated 739 people died as a result of temperatures which reached up to 41°C.

Space was no longer the final frontier, as Michael Foale became the first Briton to walk in space; this was small beer, though, compared to NASA's space endurance record, which was broken by US astronaut Norman Thagard, who spent 84 days in space during a single mission.

Meanwhile, Bill Gates was coining it: it was announced by *Forbes Magazine* that he was the richest man in world, with

a net worth of approximately US\$12.9bn. And the famous OJ Simpson trial drew to a close, with the accused found not guilty of murdering his former wife Nicole Simpson and her boyfriend, Ronald Goldma.

On the world canvas, Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic were charged with genocide by a United Nations tribunal for their actions during the Bosnian War. The Royals also were under the spotlight, when 22m people tuned in to watch an interview on BBC 1 with Diana, Princess of Wales.

As for sport, the British football transfer fee record was broken when Manchester United signed a £7m deal, buying striker Andy Cole from Newcastle United. But the sport wasn't exactly helped by Eric Cantona, who assaulted a spectator

during a Manchester United vs Crystal Palace game. This same year the Winter Olympics was awarded to Salt Lake City, Utah, by the International Olympic Committee.

For bibliophiles, the first ever 'World Book Day' was celebrated. As for gourmands, if you were fond of your bangers, then the answer lay in Canada, where butchers based in Kitchener set the world record for the longest sausage ever at 28.7 miles.

At the cinema it was all about long hair, as Mel Gibson assumed the role of *Braveheart* while in a similar vein, *Rob Roy* was played by Liam Neeson. And *Waterworld* also went for the long locks look, as sported by Kevin Costner. But the cinematic year was tinged with tragedy when *Superman* actor Christopher Reeve fell

from his horse and suffered paralysis from the neck down.

Popular bands Oasis and Blur released singles on the same day in the UK, but Blur's *Country House* single went on to beat Oasis' *Roll With It* to the number one position.

The Ace of Bass sang about *Lucky Love* while *Fairground* from Simply Red was also in the charts. Finally, evergreen Cliff Richard was awarded a knighthood for his contribution to the pop world.

Toys? Films were spurring the toy sector, to be honest. This year saw a 12 inch Steve McQueen doll dressed from the *The Great Escape*, by Toys McCoy in Japan, being marketed (one of several McQueen film releases); and *Toy Story* ephemera had just started to roll.

So... what was the year? **CG**



LEFT

Who would have thought that a jointed cowboy would take the toyfair world by storm?

BELOW

Mel Gibson in the movie *Braveheart*.

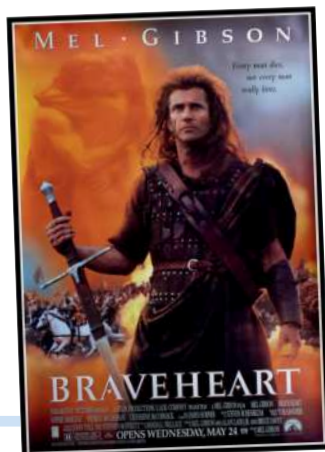


LEFT

It was a year of films and allied merchandise: Batman continued to prove popular.

BELOW

Resurrection time for Steve McQueen – from Japan, of all places.



Battle of giants: A4 v Duchess

Mark Nolan profiles the designers of the UK's fastest steam locos, whilst resisting the temptation to name drop excessively.

There's an old music journalist's joke which goes: "There are two types of people; those who like Van Morrison, and those who've met him."

He certainly sounds like someone who doesn't suffer fools gladly, and by all accounts, there's been no shortage of fools in the music business. Being contrary as a career move seems to have worked for Van the Man, but it does underline the danger of meeting one's heroes. What if a hallowed performer who projects interaction and bonhomie turns out to be monosyllabic and moody in real life? It could be that they're just very good at their job. But we don't want to have our preconceptions shattered.

Your average railway executive labours under no such apprehension. No one person is associated with the bland products from the likes of Hitachi and Siemens running on our rails today. These trains were designed by a committee being leaned on by a cabal of civil servants and politicians, and they feel like it when you ride them. But for enthusiasts there is one area of railway operation where names are bandied about with gay abandon; the locomotive designers.

Chief Mechanical Engineers (CME) are like football managers. You've heard their names but you're not sure what they do or who they do it for. Late Victorian and early 20th century engineers developed loco designs for a host of different railway companies. Usually steam engines were designed to answer a specific need. There was virtually no homogeneity; they just had to be

drivable and maintainable.

In simple terms, the inter-War period known as 'the grouping' or 'the big four' is a convenient way to orientate railway history. The LMS went from London to Scotland up the west coast, the LNER did the same up the east coast. The Western and the Southern did more or less what you would expect. There had always been rivalry on the Anglo Scottish routes, dubbed the 'Race to the North'. To an extent this was reignited in the 1930s, being the zenith of the steam age. The LMS and LNER under Stanier and Gresley respectively, competed to see whose express trains could be the fastest and the most luxurious.

WILLIAM AND NIGEL

Nigel Gresley and William Stanier were both born in the same year, 1876.

Nigel Gresley served his apprenticeship at the Crewe works of the London and North Western Railway, then moved to the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway (L&YR). In 1902 he was appointed Assistant Works Manager at Newton Heath depot, and became Assistant Superintendent of the Carriage and Wagon Department of the L&YR in 1904. A year later, he moved to the Great Northern Railway (GNR) as Carriage and Wagon Superintendent. At the 1923 Grouping, he was appointed Chief Mechanical Engineer of the newly formed LNER. He died in 1941.

William Stanier started his career on the Great Western Railway as an apprentice



ABOVE
Hornby Class A4 4-6-2 'Sir Nigel Gresley' 4498 in LNER Blue with valance.



Ace Trains O gauge 3 rail A4 locomotive and tender 60019 'Bittern' with no valance.

BELOW

Metttoy Mechanical Streamline Train 'with track and automatic turntables'. A bit lacking in the wheel department but the model definitely captures the business end of a Coronation.



**ABOVE**

Hornby Dublo 3226 Duchess Class 4-6-2 'City of Liverpool' 46247 in BR Maroon. This 3 rail version is worth a lot more than the 2 rail 'City of London.'

**ABOVE**

Hornby 'new' Dublo: BR Coronation Class 46252 'City Of Leicester'. This is what the Coronations looked like under the streamlining.

**ABOVE**

Trix Class A4 4-6-2 'Silver Link' in LNER Grey livery.

in 1892 and worked his way up to works manager at Swindon. In 1932 he was head hunted to take up the role of Chief Mechanical Engineer on the London, Midland and Scottish Railway. Stanier built many other very successful designs for the LMS, including the 'Black 5' mixed traffic 4-6-0, and the 8F 2-8-0 freight designs. He was knighted in 1943, and made a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1944, the year he retired from the LMS. He died in 1965.

COMPARISONS

The A4 is an inspired, iconic design. It looks like it's moving even when standing still. They originally carried skirts (valances) which covered the top half of the driving wheels. These were removed to aid maintenance during the war. To my mind, they look better without the valance: less labrador, more greyhound. Trainspotters nicknamed them 'streaks'. Unlike other streamlining efforts, the A4s were the only locos which never had their streamlining removed. The Duchess/Coronation

is altogether more brutal. Steel cladding was simply added to cover an existing body, giving an upturned bathtub appearance. Considerable effort was expended to keep the covers within the size limits. It's imposing but not graceful. Stanier didn't want to go with streamlining. He knew it would add weight and not increase top speed. It was an image exercise imposed from above. With the covers removed and distinctive smoke deflectors added, the Duchess was a very handsome loco.

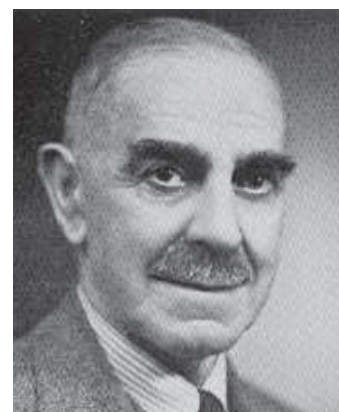
The A4s were built for speed where the Duchesses were built for fast journeys but had to develop more power to cope with the notorious (in steam days) inclines of Shap and Beattock. The Duchesses had a mechanical coal pusher and water spray which would have been a great help to a fireman on a long trip.

SPEED RECORDS

The Coronation set its record on the less favourable Madeley Bank on June 29, 1937. Crewe North driver Tom Clark took William Stanier's new 6220 Coronation to

**ABOVE**

Sir Nigel Gresley, designer of the LNER A4 class pacifics including the world record holder 'Mallard'.

**ABOVE**

Sir William Stanier, designer of the LMS Princess/Duchess/Coronation class pacifics.

a claimed 114mph. This included a nerve wracking attempt to get back down to the speed limit before Crewe. Fortunately the train held the rails.

Mallard had the benefit of the east coast route being fairly flat, with a great racetrack section known as Stoke Bank. On 3 July 1938 4468 Mallard, pulling six coaches and a dynamometer car, set a world speed record of 126 mph (202.8 km/h). This was just enough to beat the previous German speed record of 124.5 mph; Gresley and his team believed they could make 130mph, but a planned repeat run had to be cancelled on the outbreak of war.

Unlike the Coronation which was unscathed after its run, Mallard suffered centre cylinder big-end damage during its world record run and was forced to limp back to its depot for repairs afterwards.

Many armchair loco experts reckon a Princess Coronation, or Duchess, as the non-streamlined versions were later known, could have easily given Mallard a run for its money if it had been allowed to stage a record attempt on Stoke Bank. But it is Mallard that holds the record, which, given the modern-day speed restrictions on steam locomotives, will almost certainly never be broken. Wouldn't it be fun if a rail equivalent of *Top Gear* could stage a rematch? I bet it would be neck and neck.

The bottom line is, would you rather have lunch with Gresley or Stanier? Being the holder of the world speed record for steam, Sir Nigel would look better in your autograph book. As for me, I'd take a chance on Sir William, but taking great care not to mention streamlining at all.

A4 MODELS

The A4 is an obvious target for any model railway company. It's

no surprise that with their launch of OO gauge in 1938, Hornby's first locos were a workaday 0-6-2 tank and the A4 4498 'Sir Nigel Gresley'. There was even a rare clockwork version pre-War, as well as 3-rail electric versions with and without valances. Later BR models included 'Silver King', 'Mallard' and 'Golden Fleece'.

The A4s have since been covered by so many companies, in so many variations, they deserve a book on their own. These include Hornby (including live steam versions), Ace Trains (O gauge), Trix, Bachmann, Brio, and Mettoy. N gauge is catered for by Dapol and Minitrix.

DUCHESS MODELS

Hornby-Dublo introduced 6231 'Duchess of Atholl' in 1948. In 1953, smoke deflectors were added to the model, which was reliveried in BR green and released as 46232 'Duchess of Montrose'. In 1959, the model was comprehensively retooled and released in both 3-rail and 2-rail versions as 46247 'City of Liverpool' and 46245 'City of London' respectively in BR Maroon livery.

After the collapse of Meccano, Wrenn acquired Hornby's Dublo tooling and continued to produce a variety of locomotives of the class in various liveries using the 'City' body from 1969 until the early 1990s. Wrenn also produced a highly sought-after streamlined Coronation using white metal loco and tender bodies by N&KC Keyser Ltd from 1983-87.

In 1970, Tri-ang Hornby produced an OO gauge model of the streamlined locomotives which utilised the tender base of the old Hornby Dublo model with a plastic body and a new Tri-ang chassis. Hornby Railways have continued to release many incarnations of the class in both streamlined and conventional forms up to the present day. **CG**



Minix Mania

Looking for an affordable collecting theme? **Alwyn Brice** has a potential answer.

Let's be totally honest with ourselves, right from the outset. If you're a collector of miniature vehicles of any sort, then it's helpful to have certain factors in place before you set out – or in popular parlance, have your ducks lined up.

Firstly, if there's a reference book relating to the chosen field, then that is a huge asset. There's nothing worse than ambling along, not really knowing what's out there and in what quantity. Secondly, it's really helpful to know that the range you intend to hunt out is a finite one and not open ended. Take Matchbox toys for example: whilst you can simply collect the first series of 1-75, within that number there exist many variations.

Spread your net more widely and you start running into pre-production models – for the most part undocumented and, in the main, enough to have you talking seriously to your bank manager. Thirdly, colour: if you can establish a set palette, then you know what to look for. That said, even with modern manufacturers, paint batches can vary and a standard green finish might turn up in a paler hue, for instance. You have been warned...

With the Tri-ang Minix range, though, all the above boxes are ticked, rendering their collection that much simpler.

BACK TO THE SIXTIES

If memory serves (and it still does, for the most part), Minix

1/76 scale vehicles were rarely encountered within the junior school environment. There was good reason for this: lightweight, small and quite fragile, they were ill-equipped for the rough and tumble of the playground, where the diecast ruled supreme.

Tri-ang's range was actually launched in 1965 and to be fair, there was little else around in terms of plastic competitors, save the miniature vehicles of Danish giant LEGO. These latter, in 1/87 scale, were initially made in cellulose acetate, but after 1963 plastic was adopted. It is interesting to note the similarity in wheels between the two manufacturers, incidentally.

What's great about the Minix range is its finite quality (altogether just 17 vehicles were manufactured, if one includes the

caravan) and the palette used to portray (in the main) British motor cars of the decade was equally set. There are three shades of green; white, red, blue, lemon, orange, dark blue, black and maroon were also used. If you are a completist (heaven help us), then you'll need to know that not all cars were available in all the colours. Some, predictably, are very hard to find – but then that's the fun of collecting, right?

RAILWAY ADJUNCT

As many readers will be aware, the Minix range was seen by Tri-ang as a useful accessory to its huge railway empire. Everyone (well, every male) had a railway set back in the 1960s and needless to say, once a set was purchased, then came the task of



ABOVE Odd man out. The Strachan coach fails the scale test, but then Minix was not alone in manufacturing undersized passenger transport.



ABOVE Twin packs were also marketed (with models chosen at random, I suspect).

making the layout more realistic. For realism, read roads and buildings - and vehicles. Dinky's diecast Dublo range was rather long in the tooth by the 1960s, so using its plastic expertise, Tri-ang neatly filled the gap. The cross-over was reinforced by some of the rolling stock that Tri-ang manufactured; this included everything from a single Minix car strapped on to a basic open truck to a double car transporter set that contained a veritable fleet of Minix miniatures. Helpfully, there is no mystery surrounding the contents of these railway trucks: it seems that Minix cars were selected at random to fill the requirement.

The actual Minix range, which gasped its last in the late 1970s, had by then undergone a change or two. In the early days the models all ran on silver coloured wheels and tyres and sported chromed bumpers and baseplates. One suspects that the accountants waded into the toy arena around 1972, for the later production dispensed with the cost of chroming, leaving cars with grey baseplates and bumpers and with black wheel/tyre combinations.

Personally, I've never seen a real car with silver tyres, so the change to black works well; sadly, the lack of chrome is a real negative, and doesn't do the models any favours at all. But then, they were toys after all...

PACKAGING - AND PURCHASING

Minix vehicles, being small, benefitted from high profile packaging as a consequence. Whilst our old friend Matchbox was happy to hide its range within the confines of card, Tri-ang opted for a little window box wrapped with cellophane. Not only did this make the toys stand out, it also allowed the browser to see the various colours, something

important in the purchase process. A stack of such boxes also made for a colourful sight, giving the little toys great window presence, in my opinion.

All the range was sold in single units but double packs were also available: these might have contained two cars or perhaps a car and a caravan, for certain models were fitted with tow hooks. Interestingly, it is believed that not all the vehicles were retailed in twin packs. The joker in the pack (no pun intended) was the AEC-Strachan single decker bus/coach, which was modelled in 1/135 scale. One presumes it was all down to packaging size and that Tri-ang didn't want the cost (or complexity) of tooling up for a bigger window box.

Today, it's quite surprising that many of the range regularly turn up in their original window boxes, some opened, some not. Equally, there's a healthy rate of survival for what is, in essence, a very delicate toy. Always check that tow hooks are present when called for; and make sure that pressure hasn't been applied to the roof of a vehicle, which can result in poor wheel alignment or breakage. Bear in mind, too, that quality control wasn't the same half a century ago, so gaps between bodywork and bumpers or poorly fitting glazing may well be encountered.

The good news is that these miniatures are not going to break the bank: common coloured cars, loose, sell for a few pounds each whilst an unopened, boxed example can be had for under £30. There are exceptions, naturally: the Vauxhall Cresta had a short run and is hard to locate while the sole gesture to overseas manufacture in the shape of the Nash Rambler is also quite elusive.

And, if you happen to stumble across a pink model, just make sure it hasn't been out in the sun! **CG**



ABOVE

The trusty Ford Anglia (left) was as common as the Mini in the 1960s yet the latter was never made by Minix. The Simca in lemon is a rare foreign interloper.



ABOVE

For some reason black cars, as with this Ford Corsair, aren't common. The red Austin/Morris 1100 is cheerful in red alongside.



ABOVE

A pair of Sunbeam Alpines, showing the early car on the left. The missing chrome certainly detracts from the car's overall appearance.



ABOVE

Was Minix responsible for the birth of White Van Man? The Thames 400E was available in other hues, though.



ABOVE

From single wagons through to double deck transporters; take your pick!



ABOVE Flamboyant lines of the Vauxhall Victor are accentuated by the pale green finish.

Images courtesy of eBay and the author's collection.



LACY SCOTT
& KNIGHT

Chartered Surveyors | Land & Estate Agents | Auctioneers & Valuers

Welcoming entries for all our 2022 auctions:

- 18th February
- 26th August
- 29th April
- 28th October
- 24th June
- 16th December

We auction a range of toys and collectors models including:

- Diecast vehicles
- Live steam engines
- Modern issue diecast
- Action Figures
- Toys including Dinky, Corgi, Matchbox and farming and much more.
- Trains of all age and gauge
- Lead and plastic figures
- Retro Video Games
- Sci-fi toys

Please contact Oliver Leggett
via **OLeggett@lsk.co.uk** or call **01284 748623**



The number one choice for:

**Vintage Toys, Diecasts,
Model Railways, Action Figures,
Dolls, Bears, and more.**

Live internet bidding via



the-saleroom.com
live auctions

- **Up to Six Auctions every month**
- **Vendor Premium only 10% plus VAT**
- **Consignments normally collected FREE**

See website for more info

Telephone: 01928 579032

www.britishtoyauctions.co.uk

Email: enquiries@britishtoyauctions.co.uk

A large public auction of Trains, Diecast Models, Model Soldiers and other toys

Sale date: 16th March 2022

Live bidding on easyliveauction.com

Visit our website to view the catalogue

Complimentary printed sale catalogue on request



Warwick & Warwick

Warwick & Warwick Ltd.

Auctioneers and Valuers

**Chalon House, Scar Bank, Millers Road,
Warwick CV34 5DB**

Tel: 01926 499031 Fax: 01926 491906

E-mail: richard.beale@warwickandwarwick.com

www.warwickandwarwick.com

Lost but not forgotten

In the first of a three-part series, **Alwyn Brice** digs out some unusual diecasts from the back of his sofa.

The rise of toy manufacturers in this country was impressive. If you want to blame it on something, then I guess you'd better look to the Industrial Revolution as the culprit in this instance. The UK was in the enviable position of being first to harness coal and steam power, and these, along with iron and steel manufacture, allowed it to thrive. Many small businesses sprang up in the succeeding years: our automotive heritage, for example, is considered second to none.

The 1950s and early 1960s saw a rash of players enter the toy-making market. The austerity years were fading rapidly and there was a demand for playthings, whether plastic or metal. Even though household names like Dinky and relative newcomer Corgi were already established in the diecast market, and that of Moko (Lesney) was selling well, that didn't deter others from eyeing up an opportunity.

Some companies thrived and carried on for years: Lone*Star,

Benbros, Charbens, Budgie, Timpo and Britains, for example. Others, though, like a bubble in that popular drink of the period, 7up, came to the surface and disappeared. In these brief articles I'm looking at some company names that defy easy recognition; about which not much is known; and, for the most part, have had no reference books published on their output.

K IS FOR...

If you thought Kembo was a brand of coffee, then you've not been paying attention.

During my research I was surprised to come across several marques whose wares started with the letter K. Kembo is one. Kembo was the brand name belonging to the Lovell Brothers (Donald, Gerald and Kenneth) & (Paul) Jardine, who were based in the leafy stockbroker belt in Reigate, in Surrey. It seems that the enterprise produced a very small range of models in the late 1940s and then stopped; this may have been because of the Korean War, which led to a ban on the purchase



ABOVE Calling all cars! This Kembo police version certainly looks the part, dating from the days when mobile comms were rather more primitive.

of zinc in 1951. The conflict certainly impacted other diecast manufacturers of the period.

An articulated open lorry (based on the Scammell) is one model to look out for and it is fitted with six tinplate wheels. The company also repurposed the model, taking the cab unit and adding a simple (but operating) winch to the rear: this became a breakdown truck.

Other vehicles included a British saloon car, reminiscent (although by no means a copy) of our homegrown Jowett Javelin. This was also available in black as a police car and sported a huge siren on the roof, very much in the style of the tinplate Minic version. A clockwork motor gave the car an extra level of play value. This model was also made sans motor.

The above models are easy identified, having KEMBO and MADE IN ENGLAND embossed on their chassis or undersides.

... AND FOR KEMLOW

Kemlow, also referred to as Kemlow Automec or Kemlows, is one company that has survived – and by all accounts is still in the diecasting business, although it's not producing toys these days. It's also a company that had a prodigious output, largely focussed on the requirements of the model railway enthusiast under the Mastermodels moniker. Charles Kempster and William Lowe were the brains behind the outfit and their surnames were joined to form the brand.

These days you'll come across trackside accessories at swapmeets without too much trouble; and if you are in any doubt about unboxed or unbagged items, then helpfully there's a thorough reference book available: *The Illustrated Kemlows Story*, by Paul Brookes, is a real tour de force.

In terms of diecast, there is plenty to tempt the military



LEFT Kembo offered a small but interesting range of lorries. Check for headlights: these are vulnerable and can be missing.



ABOVE Kay ambulance with its original, understated box; the Midge series can still be found with a bit of searching.



ABOVE Interchangeable clockwork mechanism could be fitted to a Kay locomotive or to a vehicle.



ABOVE Two more Kembo saloons. These cars could be bought with or without motive power.

collector. The diminutive Sentry Box range of military toys is a competitor for the Matchbox series (although a little coarser in detail); and there are bigger, Dinky scale models that include the Bedford army lorry with a limber and field gun, as well as a Daimler Armoured Car (reputedly a copy of the Dinky version but minus the baseplate). A ground-based rocket launcher is also worth looking out for because it's so unusual. Other military items include a rather basic, angular field car towing a simple cannon and a quad, again very similar to the Dinky model. In terms of civilian output, there's a rudimentary caravan which accompanies a Fleetmaster saloon car: both are very hard to find now.

...AS WELL AS FOR KAY

Yes, another brand name that begins with K. I'm not sure quite why companies should opt for a letter in the midst of the alphabet (today an early letter would ensure prime billing in any sort of listing), but maybe marketing was in its infancy over half a century ago.

Kay dates from 1934 and was run by the Kempner family. Initially wholesalers, the company also released some six models

in its Midge range. These very occasionally crop up and even less occasionally will have a box. The emergency services are represented by a chunky fire engine and an ambulance, the former looking very unlike any fire engine that I've ever seen. This model is usually bereft of its ladder which locates on two lugs on the roof. The saloon car looks similar to one or two other manufacturers' products but then this was of an era when copies were made and dies were shared. A coach, an Esso petrol tanker and a racing car were also in this range. Kay obviously manufactured garage accessories too, including petrol pumps, oil dispensers and the like, and even a couple of lead figures.

All in all, Kay is a bit of a mystery range and one that surely would merit some more research? **CG**

CURIO CORNER



Each issue I'm presenting readers with a bit of a puzzle. Who made this closed window saloon car? Clearly it's of early manufacture and it looks like it might be by Crescent, but it isn't. The only identifying marks underneath are an embossed digit: the figure 1. However, this is reversed, for some inexplicable reason. I've also seen an identical model bearing an embossed 2, again in reversed format. So what's going on here? Answers next issue...



ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT

Not what it seems! Kemlow copied Dinky products, as did Japanese company Premier; if you have the Dinky version, you'll know that a baseplate is what you normally see here – but not on the Kemlow scout car.



ABOVE What a bundle! This little Kay set has everything required to replicate an instant street scene.



ABOVE Delightful Kay garage set was available, I believe, with five vehicles too.



ABOVE Great to see this trio from Kemlow with their box. This set is hard to find complete and undamaged.

Images courtesy of eBay, Vectis and Rob Newson, as well as the author's collection.

Collecting *vintage* bears

We address the tricky issue of what constitutes a good buy...

I have been buying old teddy bears now for over 20 years and in my experience, when it comes to selecting another old bear to add to a much loved collection, arctophiles do not generally require too much help or advice! Having said this, these days I am increasingly finding that I am asked by collectors for help to determine whether a particular make or design of old bear is 'a good buy'.

Answering this can sometimes be a little difficult, although not because I don't want to help. On the contrary, if I have time, I am always happy to offer my opinion which is based on current market activity and trends. I say this because particular makes/types of old bears will vary in their popularity - sometimes they'll be in and at others time out of fashion. Merrythought Cheeky bears are a good example of this trend. Some years ago a 1950s mohair Cheeky in good condition would be given an auction estimate of £200 to £400 and would often actually achieve the higher end of this guide. Then, and seemingly for a variety of reasons, prices dropped quite drastically and for quite some time, Cheeky bears were bought and sold for less than half the previous lower end auction estimate. Those that have back catalogues for the Christie's specialist teddy bears sales will be able to follow this downturn. The good news for collectors is that Cheeky bears are apparently now coming back into fashion and I have certainly noticed their prices on the increase in recent years. Small, rare coloured ones are

always popular and tend to hold their value, even in a depressed market.

BUY WHAT YOU LOVE

That said, regardless of what is happening at any time in the old teddy bear market, I generally avoid offering guidance that is too specific because as far as I am concerned, the only compelling reason for anyone to buy a particular old teddy is that they love the bear. Also, I feel that most experienced dealers and collectors would agree that the investment potential for old bears is not always easy to assess, especially since with old bears, beauty really is in the eye of the beholder. I have frequently watched in astonishment when a poor old bear, in a truly dreadful state - literally almost falling apart - sells at auction for a vast amount of money. Collectors will say to me, "I couldn't help myself, I just had to have him," and to be fair, this is something we can all totally understand. As a fan of decrepit antique teddy bears, I know I do! Clearly, then, if a collector finds that they have fallen 'in love' with a particular old bear, unless they have no option but to stick to a limited budget, price will not always be the main criterion and therefore the bear will be worth whatever they are prepared to pay to take him home.

However, for the majority of people, money will be a significant issue and recently, in our current, rather depressed economic climate there have been some interesting changes in the old teddy bear market. During the



Early, quality bears will always be popular with collectors.





ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT The current market is very keen on tatty old teddies; Small, mascot-style bears have a strong following at the moment; Character helps sell old bears, and this old boy has bucket loads of it.

last year or so, I have observed that instead of continuing to buy bears to add to an ever growing collection, buyers have become much more selective and will often look to either sell or part exchange old bears from their collections in order to adopt one they just have to have. The knock on effect of this downsizing of collections can, even if just for a while, artificially increase the number of certain old teddy bears available for other collectors to buy. Subsequently the sudden apparent abundance of some types of antique teddies will inevitably have an impact on prices. In particular, just lately I have noticed that collectors are parting with very large teddy bears and also examples dating from the late 1950s. Unfortunately, and through no fault of the bears, the prices for these old teddies may start to decrease throughout the market until the trend reverses.

CHANGING TIMES

There are a number of perhaps obvious reasons for these changes. For instance, prior to the internet, it was widely believed that old bears were in very scarce supply and in fairness, even now it is true to say that certain makes and designs are still extremely hard to find. But in the 1980s/1990s there were very limited buying opportunities for collectors who wished to build a 'hug' of old bears. Here in the UK during these early days of the antique teddy bear market, there were only one or two dealers who produced simple colour catalogues for customers to buy old bears via mail order.

Nowadays these dealers, together with an ever-growing number of others have their own websites. Then there were, and still are, a number of excellent teddy bear fairs (including Hugglets which is probably the most popular and best attended teddy event in any calendar year). Also, there were, and again still are, a few specialist old teddy bears shops. These shops and specialist fairs provided old bear fans with welcome, if limited opportunities to grow their collections and best of all, allowed them to handle the cherished old bears 'in the fur'.

And then along came eBay. Love it or hate it, eBay has had enormous global impact which has changed consumer buying, probably for all time. I believe that arctophiles can and do benefit from eBay and other, similar internet auctions. But perhaps dedicated old teddy bear collectors need to consider who and what actually determines the price of a particular old bear. Everyone loves a bargain, so of course it is great news to 'win' a bear for a fraction of the price a similar example might cost from a specialist teddy bear dealer. However, on eBay the reverse of this can also happen. For example, a month or so ago, a friend of mine told me about a nice but not especially rare (or in any way outstanding) 1930s Chiltern teddy for sale on eBay. The bear sold for £430 but a quick comparison would have shown that there were (and generally always will be) similar bears readily available from dealers' websites, all for sale at half that price. To me this again demonstrates that an old teddy

is worth whatever an individual is prepared to pay for it, but if a collector is buying on eBay I would definitely recommend they set a maximum limit – it is all too easy to get carried away.

As I mentioned earlier, it is the larger bears that are usually the first to be offered for re-homing by collectors. This decision generally has nothing to do with the poor bears and indeed collectors often express their reluctance to part with their old friends. But after a time, perhaps people find that these big old bears just occupy too much space in their homes. An obvious explanation for this comes from history as most decades and generations are influenced by fashion styles and trends. We know that the Victorians were famous for hoarding and that they loved collecting all sorts of treasures with which to fill their homes. By contrast, the Art Deco fashions and tastes during the late 1920s and 1930s were far more minimalistic. Currently a number of my collector friends are telling me that they need to 'de-clutter' and are therefore in the process of downsizing everything, not just their bears. So if the name of the game today is 'less is more', what happens to the private and in some cases extensive collections of vintage teddies? If asked, I say to any anxious collector, please try not to worry or be too influenced by current market trends because vintage teddy bears have enjoyed immense popularity for many years, and I firmly believe that their popularity will endure, even in these days of quite mind-boggling

technological development. We must also remember that there are generations of arctophiles in the making who, like us, will always care passionately for their bears. **CG**

TOP TIPS...

- Buy an old teddy because you love and want the bear – try to disregard thoughts of investment potential.
- Set a budget and decide early on whether your preference is for quantity or quality!
- If possible, do not make hasty decisions about your collection – sit tight and wait for the economy to pick up before parting with any old bears.
- Whether buying or selling, seek advice from reputable dealers and/or auction houses.
- If short of space buy small, early 20th Century teddies. These occupy very little room and the early American teddies seem especially competitively priced just now.
- If worried about bears losing value, look for early Farnell and Steiff bears from 1902 to the 1920s. These bears, in virtually almost any condition, seem to hold their value.
- Protect and care for your old bears and if in doubt seek advice from specialist dealers and restorers.
- Above all please enjoy your bears and simply love them for the pleasure and comfort that they so effortlessly give.



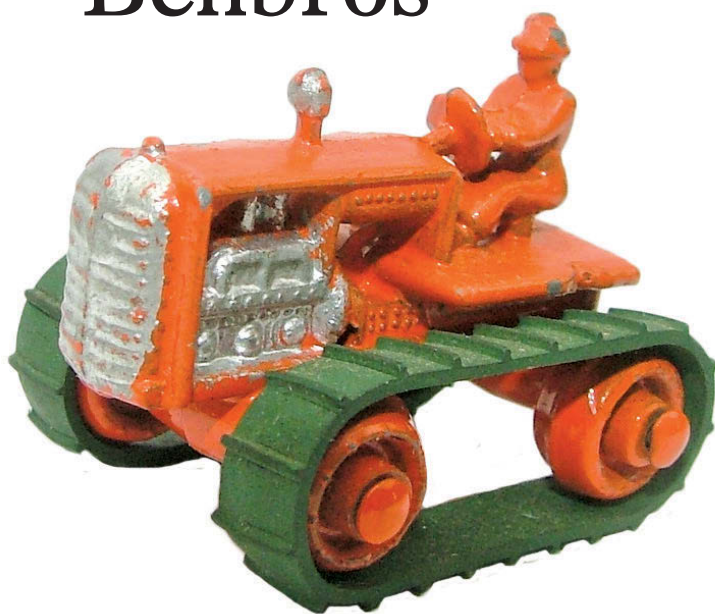
10 minute TOY EXPERT!

Benbros

My memories of Benbros toys are still as vivid today as they have ever been and hopefully will remain with me forever. They date back to the early 1960s when I fondly remember being taken for a bus ride to the local outdoor market every Saturday morning by my dear mother. There we trawled along row upon row of stalls selling all manner of goods and mum would always linger for what seemed like hours at the pot stall. This was back in the days when market stalls were far different to those timid affairs of today. In those days the goods were stacked high and costermongers shouted at the top of their voices to attract trade. On the dreaded pot stall tea sets were sold from large wicker baskets lined with straw. The pot woman, as mum called her, was a little fat lady with no front teeth who stood behind a battered old tea chest, holding a big wooden mallet, barking out her prices until someone raised their hand to bag a bargain. Every time a sale was made her hammer hit the top of the tea chest as if a shot gun had been fired sending all the fat pigeons racing for cover. My mum could never resist a bargain and nearly always fell for the sales patter of the pot woman. Already loaded up with vegetables, fruit and countless other groceries, mum would rely on me to carry home any crockery she bought "You will carry it for me won't you son, you're a good lad" she would say loading me up like a human pack horse. In the bottom corner of the market was the toy stall that we had to go past it to get to our bus stop and every

now and then I'd have enough money to buy a toy. If mum had any money left she would often top up what I had in order to get what I wanted. The interesting thing was that this market stall was almost entirely stocked with goods from the lesser known diecast toy companies including Charbens, Lone Star, Crescent, Budgie and, of course, Benbros. The mouthwatering array of toys stacked high at the back with toys on their boxes was a sight to behold and making a decision on what to buy was never easy.

The fact that so many Benbros toys found their way onto market stalls is reflective of the distribution chain of the smaller diecast firms. They wholesaled large quantities of stock into trade warehouses where market traders bought their goods, rather than developing their own complicated direct distribution systems to retailers. Benbros did, however, employ travelling salesmen to visit shops and take orders after launching its smaller TV Series and Mighty Midget ranges. I once owned a Benbros travelling salesman's sample box with the toys neatly stitched onto card inside the flat red box. I can never remember seeing Dinky Toys on this market stall as they obviously distributed directly to toy shops rather than trade warehouses. Basically, I would imagine Dinky Toys were too expensive for market traders to handle. Benbros toys by comparison were always far cheaper than Dinkies – much to the relief of my mum! They were great value toys despite being of lesser quality and detail than Dinky, but they could not stand the same amount of playwear as



ABOVE

The Benbros crawler tractor was very similar to the Matchbox issue but not quite as good in casting detail. The pale green version of this model is rare.



ABOVE

The Foden FG Timber tractor was released as a TV Series and Mighty Midget model. The towing hook is very brittle and has a tendency to break off very easily.

Dinky or Lesney Toys.

Another place where Benbros Toys were always to be found were those little seaside souvenir shops and arcades, one of which I clearly remember visiting during

our caravan holidays in Skegness. Kids often had holiday money to spend and adults had presents to take home so cheap toys were always good sellers at the seaside. If I won any money on the one-

**ABOVE**

Released to rival the Lesney Toy miniature state coach in 1952 sales of this Benbros State Coach could not match that of its close rival.

**ABOVE**

The Beneson brothers liked the look of Lesney's Royal Coronation Coach so much that they decided to make a copy of it.

LEFT

The Mighty Midget bulldozer is the same casting as T.V. Series No.10. There are two different colour variations to look out for.

arm bandits I always used to put it towards a toy.

Benbros was formed by two brothers, Jack and Nathan Beneson who hailed from the Golders Green area of London. Dates relating to the formation of the company, originally known as Beneson Bros, vary but it was sometime during the late 1940s? One thing that is certain, however, is that metal toys had been in short supply during the Second World War so the post-War years offered great opportunities for new firms with millions of kids ready to sink their precious pocket money into new exciting diecast toys. It became a very competitive market in which some thrived and others fell by the wayside - usually through lack of sufficient funding. North London became a hot bed of diecast toy firms in the late 1940s and Benbros were

there right there in the thick of it. The name was derived from a simple contraction of Beneson Brothers and the factory was located at 145 Gosport Road, Walthamstow. Sadly little detail is known about the early years of the company. Like most of their competitors their first toys were a little crude in design and detail and included various ranges of soldiers, cowboys and farm animals marketed toys under the 'Qualitoy' banner. The range grew quickly to include all manner of toys from a cap firing machine gun to a tractor equipped with various agricultural implements and another with a front loading shovel. Other early Benbros toys included Buffalo Bill's horse-drawn covered wagon, a model of Stephenson's Rocket locomotive and a nicely proportioned model of a Ruston Bucyrus 10RB

face shovel which they also mounted on the back of a Guy lorry. The latter was always a great favourite of mine as a kid although the swinging door at the back of the bucket and the side rope winding handles were always prone to break off after a while. It wasn't uncommon for the whole digger to break off the lorry if you were a bit too rough with it! 'Qualitoy' models came in good looking boxes with attractive pictorial graphics. Some collectors maintain that the box illustrations were almost always better than the models themselves! I suppose that was a common marketing ploy. At some stage Benbros purchased a range of dies from Timpo Toys when they ceased production of road vehicles. One of these was an articulated truck which came with various trailers including a box van, petrol tanker and a log hauling unit. These are all rare models today if found with their original boxes.

It seems highly likely that the Beneson brothers formed a fairly close association with Les and Rodney Smith of nearby Lesney Toys as in 1951 Benbros was contracted to cast the horses for the large Lesney State Coach made for the Festival of Britain celebrations. This model was short lived, however, as the Korean War brought severe restrictions on the use of zinc. Relations might have strained a little later, however, when Benbros released its own version of the miniature Royal State Coach which was almost an exact replica of the Lesney toy. While Lesney's coach sold over a million the Benbros version was somewhat less successful as by this time Lesney were way ahead of Benbros in terms of production capacity and marketing. Collectors' are sometimes confused by these two models as they are so similar. The difference is that the Benbros coach has the 'E.R.' Royal insignia cast into its doors whereas the Lesney coach does not and the Benbros horses have 'MADE IN ENGLAND' cast into the top of the centre draw bar between the horses.

Following the launch of 'Matchbox Toys' in November 1953 Benbros responded by releasing its own range of miniature vehicles a year later. Whilst Lesney had been clever in putting its toys inside a replica matchbox the Beneson brothers came up with the quirky idea of putting their toys inside boxes made to look like tiny television sets with the picture of each

model printed on the TV screen. It was a novel idea with the first few models being horse-drawn vehicles. Gradually more road vehicles were introduced to this range known as the 'TV Series' including an AA motorcycle unit, electric milk trolley and a Dennis Fire engine. One of the more interesting of the early Benbros TV series was a Foden timber tractor with log trailer which to my knowledge is the only diecast Foden DG timber tractor ever made. As the range progressed some Benbros models became very similar to Matchbox issues. These include the orange and yellow crawler tractors, Centurian tank, ERF petrol tanker and Coca-Cola delivery truck.

The Benbros miniature range was modified in 1957 and re-branded as 'Mighty Midgets'. The old 'TV Series' television boxes were replaced by new red yellow and black boxes with a simple line drawing of the model top and bottom. They now looked more like Matchbox Toys than ever. The series grew to number 51 different models by the time production ceased.

In the early 1960s Benbros launched a new range of larger scale diecasts under the Zebra Toys banner which grew to include a number of very pleasing diecast models. One of my favourite Zebra's was the orange and yellow ready-mixed concrete lorry based on a Foden DG cab and chassis. I saw one of these priced up at an incredible £250 recently - I think mine cost 3/6d (15.5p) - those were the days! Another great little Zebra model I have fond memories of as a kid is the Heinkel Bubble car which is rare as hens teeth today if you can find one mint boxed.

Colours of models varies greatly throughout the whole range of Benbros toys which makes collecting them great fun as you never know what oddity you might find next?

For many years Benbros toys were considered to be somewhat of a poor relation to their more illustrious big brothers such as Dinky, Corgi and Spot-On, but with a huge upsurge of interest in the more obscure diecast companies of the post-war era prices are soaring ever upward.

The end of Benbros came along in the mid-1960s although existing stocks already in the distribution chain took many more years to be sold through warehouses and retail outlets. Finding them today getting harder and harder but they are well worth the effort. **CG**

Famous Faces:

FIREBALL XL5

Remembering collectables that found fame through the silver screen.



ABOVE

This incomplete Space City recently sold for £240 at Vectis Auctions.

Forget *Thunderbirds*, *Stingray* or *Captain Scarlet*, for me Gerry Anderson's finest work is *Fireball XL5* – an exciting adventure through space with a whole host of weird aliens, a robot that would probably be outsmarted by a vacuum cleaner and a sultry-voiced medic (although I didn't really realise that as a kid). It seems incredible to believe that it's now been 60 years since it was first broadcast – so what better time to remember the futuristic series and take a look at some

of the *Fireball XL5* collectables that are still attracting attention at auction today.

But first, going back to those early years, it was my dad that introduced me to *Fireball XL5*. He was a huge fan of Gerry Anderson and an early picture of me as a toddler shows me grimacing in a home-made *Captain Scarlet* costume, while my dad smiles proudly behind me – I think he wishes my nan could have made him an adult-sized version, to be honest.

While growing up – despite *Thunderbirds* and *Stingray*

regularly being broadcast on TV – *Fireball XL5* remained an unusually elusive beast that I only remember seeing a few times, but those fleeting episodes created a lasting memory. So much so that I remember getting a stern telling off from my mum after she caught me strapping a firework to the back of a model train (which I had 'converted' into a spaceship, thanks to some LEGO) and was hoping to launch down the garden using some model rail tracks, just like *Fireball XL5*. Somewhat closer to the present day, I was delighted

in 2009 when the entire series was released on DVD, meaning I could finally see all the episodes of this fantastic show.

I can only imagine that children in 1962 were similarly blown away by the adventures of Steve Zodiac as I was. Of course, this was in part down to Gerry Anderson's superb style of puppetry – Supermarionation – first introduced in *Four Feather Falls* in 1962. The use of ultra-thin wires meant control mechanisms were almost invisible and the solenoid motors helped to create synchronized mouth movements,



ABOVE

This Product Enterprise large scale World Space Patrol model, in mint condition, sold for £90 when it went to auction.



ABOVE

One of the most desirable items is this fantastic Jetmobile. A decent example realized £800 at Vectis..



ABOVE

Finding a complete Galaxy Patrol set is tough because the rear of the box features cut out cards.

meaning there was a certain amount of realism in the big-headed puppets. Even if most scenes featured characters sitting down, rather than walking clumsily around.

Personally, I think that part of the Fireball XL5 appeal is the fact it was made during the 1960s – the golden age of science fiction. Film makers, scientists and even the general public were enthused with visions of the future thinking that by the year 2000, we'd all be living in space or, at the very least, have a robot butler – something that

Anderson certainly tapped into with many of his TV series.

As a result Fireball's futuristic setting of 2062 featured everything that makes classic science fiction so brilliant – a charismatic lead character, a strange robot that only seemed to be programmed to shout 'on our way home', menacing aliens such as the robotic Granatoids, a range of mind-boggling vehicles, slightly mad scientists and a superbly catchy theme tune. In fact, perhaps due to this heady combination, it was the only Gerry Anderson series to

RIGHT

Vectis sold this Marcus Harris and Lewis Jetmobile, complete with Steve Zodiac and Zoonie for £320.



be shown on an American TV network and NBC broadcast it on its Saturday morning slot between 1963 and '65.

Of course, this popularity resulted in numerous toy tie-ins, which continue to appear at auctions today. One of the most sought-after collectables is Multiple Toy Makers (MTM) Space City playset, based on Steve Zodiac's headquarters in the series. I recently spotted one of these playsets at Vectis Auctions and was amazed by how modern it looks, despite being made in 1964, and also how striking the box art is – once again proving that for many of these vintage collectables, a box in good condition is worth almost as much as the toy itself.

Space City's centerpiece is a 21-inch plastic version of Fireball XL5, complete with detachable nose (Fireball Junior) and hidden rockets that spring out of two panels at the side. Fireball Junior also featured a simple landing mechanism and a cockpit that could be opened to allow Steve and ship medic Venus to be seated inside. Another nice touch is a cardboard replica of Space City HQ (something that's very tough to find in decent condition) and a 24-inch spring-powered track launcher that could be used to fire XL1 into orbit (or just onto your carpet). Because of the sheer variety of pieces and the delicate cardboard playset, a Space City in good condition can be worth serious money. For example an incomplete and lightly damaged set at Vectis sold for £240 but a mint example can easily fetch at

least double that.

Another nice MTM piece is the Galaxy Patrol set, which compromises four plastic figures (Robert the Robot, Steve Zodiac, Venus and Zoonie), two jetmobiles, the Jet Car, Fireball transport truck/trailer and the eight-inch XL1. These are actually the same pieces that can be found in the Space City playset. Unfortunately not many of these sets have survived intact because the rear of the packaging featured 'cut out and keep' trading cards, which means a mint version can fetch around £350.

Moving away from MTM, another rare piece is Fairylite's Jetmobile from 1962. The toy features the iconic flying vehicle that Steve Zodiac used to zip around in the TV series. It comes complete with a friction motor and Steve perched at the controls, ready to rescue the galaxy. It's a rather delicate piece, thanks to several thin plastic aerials that are easily snapped and doesn't often come up for auction in good condition. However, a boxed version did appear for sale at Vectis and, despite missing the rear aerial, it still fetched £800.

Well, hope you've enjoyed this adventure through space with Fireball XL5. Of course, these are just a few of the Fireball collectables that are available and there are also a host of puppets, plastic figures, board games and puzzles. Here's hoping we'll still be reading about these collectables in another 60 years – although by then, hopefully my robot butler will be reading the article to me! **CG**

eBay

From collectables of the future to old favourites, eBay always manages to produce some amazing finds... and even more amazing prices!



♦ **Item:** Playmates Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Undercover Donatello figure
Condition: Mint on mint card backing
Sold for: £1800 (29 bids)



♦ **Item:** Airfix Monte Carlo Rally MR 205 Set Mini Cooper, circa 1966
Condition: Complete original set, with all paperwork and contents, some age wear
Sold for: £322 (5 bids)



♦ **Item:** Dinky Supertoys Foden Flat Truck with Tailboard No.503
Condition: Model near mint, in a poor to fair box
Sold for: £897 (21 bids)



♦ **Item:** Kenner M.A.S.K. Mask Laser Command, 1980s
Condition: Used but good condition, all items present in box
Sold for: £1220 (26 bids)



♦ **Item:** South Park Phillip 'Pip' Pirrup plush figure
Condition: Mint original condition from 1998
Sold for: £1000 (57 bids)



♦ **Item:** CMC 1/18 Ferrari 250 GTO 1962 Targa Florio #86
Condition: New and undisplayed - only taken out of the box for photos
Sold for: £1002 (36 bids)



♦ **Item:** LEGO DC Comics Super Heroes Bat-Pod No.5004590
Condition: Mint in factory sealed original box
Sold for: £881 (16 bids)



♦ **Item:** LEGO Ghostbusters Firehouse Headquarters & Ecto-1 No.75827/No.10274
Condition: HQ had been built once, the Ecto Car was new and sealed
Sold for: £700 (22 bids)



♦ **Item:** Corgi Toys No.497 The Man from U.N.C.L.E. Thrush Buster, 1966
Condition: All original, very good, rare white version
Sold for: £765 (32 bids)



♣ **Item:** Matchbox Lesney Superfast No.64 Slingshot
Condition: Near mint, with a few bits of chrome damage
Sold for: £909 (25 bids)



♣ **Item:** LEGO Cloud City Star Wars Boba Fett
Condition: Used, excellent condition
Sold for: £1023 (25 bids)



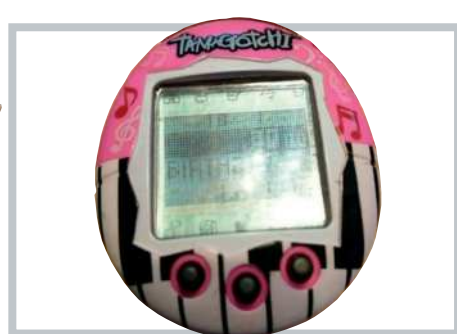
♣ **Item:** Corgi Juniors Multi-pack Gift Set No.3007
Condition: Good, blister packs in a good condition for age
Sold for: £908 (6 bids)



♣ **Item:** GI Joe Shore Patrol Set No.7612, 1967
Condition: 100% complete, with no visible damage, rare
Sold for: £1807 (12 bids)



♣ **Item:** Corgi Toys No.281 Rover 2000 TC, red dot wheels
Condition: All original, very good, rare version
Sold for: £509 (33 bids)



♣ **Item:** Tamagotchi Music Star Connection V6, UK version
Condition: Very good, lightly played with, good working order
Sold for: £170 (15 bids)



♣ **Item:** Wingnut Wings 1/32 Duellists Felixstowe F.2A Hansa-Brandenburg W.29
Condition: Very good, contents factory sealed except for the instruction book
Sold for: £446 (21 bids)



♣ **Item:** Star Wars Return of the Jedi Boba Fett, 45 back
Condition: Mint on card, tiny hairline crack on bottom right of the bubble
Sold for: £1319 (25 bids)



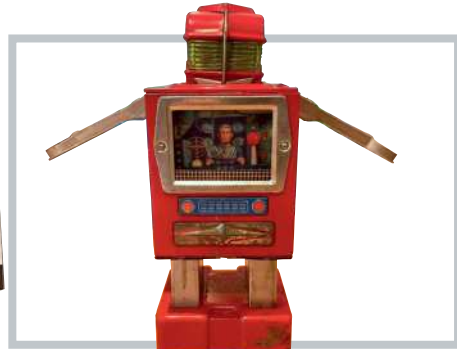
♣ **Item:** Tiger Furby Buddies
Condition: Rare, in excellent condition, fully functioning. Only 1000 made
Sold for: £160 (16 bids)



♣ **Item:** Playcraft Electric Highways set No.1, in box with track
Condition: Complete - outer box showed age wear, contents had lighter marks
Sold for: £640 (19 bids)



♣ **Item:** Britains Deetail No.7456 Federal Forces boxed set
Condition: Excellent for age, figures had never been removed
Sold for: £265 (17 bids)



♣ **Item:** 1960s Yonezawa Japan Tin Space Explorer Robot
Condition: Rare example, excellent condition with all parts moving
Sold for: £1020 (21 bids)



THE LANCASHIRE AUCTION HOUSE



Toy Collections Wanted!



Diecast Model Cars, Model Railways, TV Related Toys, Dolls, Model Soldiers, Live Steam, Tinplate, Action Figures - anything considered

We are now taking in items for our 2022 auctions.
We can arrange to pickup large Collections.



The Lancashire Auction House, Unit 5, Brookside Business Park, Rawtenstall, Lancashire BB4 8HH

Contact: 01706 213333 Mobile: 07538141436

Email: mark@lancashireauctionhouse.co.uk www.lancashireauctionhouse.co.uk

GOLDING YOUNG & MAWER 1864

CHARTERED AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS ♦ ARTS & ANTIQUES SURVEYORS



Entries now invited
*The Bourne Auction Rooms host a quarterly
Automobilia, Toys and Trains sale*

Toying with the idea of selling?
Three Live Webcast sales a month



Regulated by RICS - The hallmark of a professional auction house offering executor & private client advice & services for valuation, auction sale & property clearance.

The Bourne Auction Rooms
T: 01778 422686
E: bourne@goldingyoung.com



The Grantham Auction Rooms
T: 01476 565118
E: grantham@goldingyoung.com



The Lincoln Auction Rooms
T: 01522 524984
E: lincoln@goldingyoung.com

Visit goldingyoung.com for catalogues, sale results and services.

BAMFORDS

AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS

Over 500 lots of Toys, Juvenalia and Collectors items

Including a large single-owner collection of over 140 Steiff teddy bears from a Derbyshire Estate; a collection of more than sixty Matchbox Moko Lesney diecast models, discovered at the back of a wardrobe in a Nottinghamshire home; other diecast models including Dinky Toys and Corgi Toys; other Toys include Tinplate Toys, Automotons, Bisque Head Dolls, Model Kits, Live Steam Models, Agricultural Models and Star Wars figures/vehicles.

A good selection of Advertising and Packaging including Showcards, Enamel Signs and Point of Sale items; other Collectors items including Children's Books, Stamps and Philately.



easyliveAuction.com

View our sales online at the-saleroom.com, easyliveauction.com and bamfords-auctions.co.uk

Live bidding available via the-saleroom.com, easyliveauction.com and bamfords-auctions.co.uk

Toys, Juvenalia and Memories of Childhood Auction

including Collectors Items

Tuesday 8th March 2022 at 10.00am



The Derby Auction House | Chequers Road | Derby | DE21 6EN | 01332 210000 | sales@bamfords-auctions.co.uk | www.bamfords-auctions.co.uk

WESSEX
AUCTION ROOMS
— AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS —

TOYS WANTED for our specialist sale

With even more sale dates added this year, we are looking for consignments, from large collections to single items, for our specialist toy auction. Headed up by Tim Weeks, auctioneer and BBC Bargain Hunt expert, our toy auctions are busier than ever - contact us now for professional, friendly advice.



01249 720888

enquiries@wessexauctionrooms.co.uk
www.wessexauctionrooms.co.uk

Westbrook Farm, Draycot Cerne, Chippenham, SN15 5LH
5 Nelson Place, Bath, BA1 5DA

NEXT TOY
AUCTION
31st March & 1st April

WESSEX
SPECIALIST
TOY
Auctions

PRICE GUIDE

This month we review the latest toy sales at Vectis, C&T Auctions, East Bristol Auctions and Special Auction Services.



♣ Bachmann OO Gauge 31-032 London Midland grey and green livery (Euston) 4-car Class 350 "Desiro" EMU No.350101, fitted with DCC decoder, excellent to excellent plus in good plus individual boxes, in good to good plus outer box. **Sold for £190, Vectis, January.**



♣ Bachmann OO Gauge 31-677 Bo-Bo BR blue Class AL5 Overhead Electric Loco No.E3056, fitted with DCC decoder, address code 3056, conditions excellent to excellent plus in excellent to excellent plus box. **Sold for £120, Vectis, January.**



♣ Bachmann OO Gauge 32-109 0-6-0 Network South East blue and white livery Class 08 Diesel Shunter No.08631 "Eagle", fitted with a DCC sound decoder with address code 631, condition excellent to excellent plus in excellent box. **Sold for £110, Vectis, January.**



♣ Bachmann OO Gauge 32-111Y (Limited Edition) 0-6-0 EER lined blue livery Class 08 Diesel Shunter No.08833, No.124 of 512 produced for Modelzone, fitted with a DCC sound decoder with address code 833, excellent to excellent plus in excellent box. **Sold for £140, Vectis, January.**



♣ Bachmann OO Gauge 32-029A Bo-Bo Railfreight large logo grey Class 20 Diesel Loco No.20132, loco has been fitted with a DCC decoder address code 132, front coupling hook missing, condition excellent in generally good plus box. **Sold for £110, Vectis, January.**



♣ Hornby (China) R2972 Hitachi blue livery 4-car Class 395 HS1 "Javelin" Overhead Electric EMU No.359003 "Sir Steve Redgrave", excellent in excellent polystyrene box base, in generally good to good plus pictured outer sleeve, some damage to box end flaps. **Sold for £120, Vectis, January.**



♣ Hornby (China) R2890 "EWS Managers Train Pack" containing Bo-Bo EWS silver livery Class 67 Diesel Loco No.67029 "Royal Diamond", conditions are good plus in good plus polystyrene box inner all contained in generally good outer box with some damage to end flaps. **Sold for £160, Vectis, January.**



♣ Hornby (China) R2947 Network South East blue and white livery 4-car (3 VEP) EMU No.3588, unit has been fitted with DCC decoder with address code 3588, condition good plus to excellent in good polystyrene box base all contained in good to good plus pictured outer box. **Sold for £180, Vectis, January.**



♣ Hornby (China) R3922 Co-Co Freightliner orange livery Class 66 No.66623, fitted with DCC sound decoder on address code 623, condition excellent plus to near mint in excellent plus box with pictured outer sleeve. **Sold for £120, Vectis, January.**



♣ Hornby (China) Bo-Bo Intercity Swallow livery Class 86 Overhead Electric Loco, loco has been renumbered and renamed and is now 86249 "County of Merseyside", some minor marks generally good plus in original Hornby box. **Sold for £70, Vectis, January.**



♣ Lima OO Gauge 4986 Bo-Bo DRS blue livery Class 33 Diesel Loco No.33207, loco is fitted with DCC decoder with address code 207, condition is excellent to excellent plus in generally good box. **Sold for £70, Vectis, January.**



♣ Bachmann OO Gauge 31-910 4-4-2 LBSC lined umber livery H1 Class Atlantic No.39 "La France", condition excellent plus to near mint in excellent plus to near mint box. **Sold for £130, Vectis, January.**



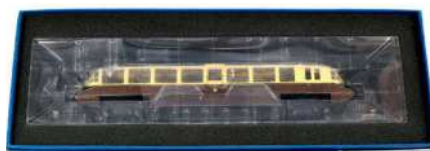
♣ Bachmann OO Gauge 31-460 0-6-0 South Eastern Chatham lined green livery C Class Loco No.592, condition excellent plus to near mint in excellent to excellent plus box. **Sold for £160, Vectis, January.**



♣ Bachmann OO Gauge 31-265 BR (SR) green Motor Luggage Van (MLV) No.S68001, condition excellent plus in excellent to excellent plus box. **Sold for £130, Vectis, January.**



♣ Bachmann OO Gauge 31-725 NRM 4-4-0 GWR lined green 37XX City Class No.3440 "City of Truro", this is a National Railway Museum Exclusive Edition, excellent plus in generally excellent box. **Sold for £100, Vectis, January.**



♣ Dapol OO Gauge 4D-011-004 GWR brown and cream Streamlined Railcar No.8, condition near mint to mint in near mint to mint box. **Sold for £90, Vectis, January.**



♣ Dapol OO Gauge 4D-011-100 GWR brown and cream Streamlined Express Parcels Railcar No.17, condition near mint to mint in near mint to mint box. **Sold for £80, Vectis, January.**



♣ Heljan OO Gauge 9001 Bo-Bo Metropolitan Railway lined brown livery Electric Loco No.9 "John Milton", conditions excellent plus to near mint in excellent to excellent plus box. **Sold for £150, Vectis, January.**



♣ Hornby Railways R901 Intercity 125 Swallow livery Train Set, containing oval of track, controller and wall mounted transformer, excellent in good plus to excellent polystyrene inner tray with provision for additional coach to be added, all contained in fair to good picture box but with some sellotape repairs to ends. **Sold for £80, Vectis, January.**



♣ Bachmann OO Gauge 31-060K (Limited Edition) 0-6-0 lined Apple green J72 Class Tank Loco No.69025, complete with certificate No.051 of 504 produced for Bachmann Collectors Club, condition mint in mint box. **Sold for £90, Vectis, January.**



♣ Hornby (China) R3392 TTS (Railroad) 1Co-Co1 BR blue Class 40 Diesel Loco No.40164, fitted with TTS Digital sound, condition near mint to mint in near mint to mint box. **Sold for £70, Vectis, January.**



♣ Bachmann OO Gauge 34-431 DC Bo-Bo BR blue Class 24 Diesel Loco No.24077, with factory fitted DCC chip onboard, conditions excellent plus to near mint in generally excellent to excellent plus box. **Sold for £130, Vectis, January.**



♣ Hornby (China) R3207 2-8-2 LNER Apple green P2 Class Loco No.2001 "Cock 'o the North", etched nameplates have been fitted, rear tender coupling detached, excellent in excellent plus box complete with pictured outer sleeve. **Sold for £100, Vectis, January.**



♣ Bachmann OO Gauge 31-060K (Limited Edition) 0-6-0 lined Apple green J72 Class Tank Loco No.69025, complete with certificate No.263 of 504 produced for Bachmann Collectors Club, condition mint in mint box. **Sold for £90, Vectis, January.**



♣ Marklin Hamo 2-rail 8302 2-6-6-0 Borsig Class Loco, loco has been repainted and No.89 with NR to tender sides and stars fitted to both smoke deflectors, condition fair in poor to fair original box. **Sold for £70, Vectis, January.**



♣ Hornby (China) R2789 Special Edition 4-6-2 Loco and Tender LMS maroon Streamlined Princess Coronation Class "Duchess of Hamilton", near mint in excellent box. **Sold for £90, Vectis, January.**



♣ Roco HO 43328 2-10-0 KPEV green livery "Sachs STS.E.B" No.1200, condition good plus to excellent in good to good plus box. **Sold for £60, Vectis, January.**



♣ **Codeg Mechanical Dalek From The BBC Television Series Dr. Who**, circa 1965, tinplate/plastic body, working clockwork motor, in good original condition, original illustrated card box is in fair to good condition. **Sold for £420, C&T Auctions, January.**



♣ **Scarce Codeg from the BBC Television Series Dr. Who Dodge The Daleks Board Game**, circa 1965, complete plastic playing pieces, dice cup, wooden dice. Contents are excellent, some edge/age wear. **Sold for £320, C&T Auctions, January.**



♣ **Corgi Toys Gift Set 3 Batmobile and Batboat**, original Batman & Robin figures, plastic missiles only still on sprue and Batboat 2nd issue. Models are in mint original condition, some age/edge wear to box. **Sold for £280, C&T Auctions, January.**



♣ **Corgi Toys The Avengers Gift Set 40**, replacement John Steed figure and white Lotus Elan S2, with copy Emma Peel figure, models are in very good to excellent original condition, Lotus has some paint touch ups. **Sold for £140, C&T Auctions, January.**



♣ **Corgi Toys The Avengers Gift Set 40**, containing scarce Steeds Bentley, green body, red wire wheels and Emma Peels white Lotus Elan S2, cast wheel hubs, with original figures, models are in near mint. **Sold for £660, C&T Auctions, January.**



♣ **Corgi Toys 270 James Bond Aston Martin 1st Edition**, with tyre slashers, revolving number plates, rear bullet screen, front retractable machine guns, original figures, in near mint original condition. **Sold for £220, C&T Auctions, January.**



♣ **Corgi Toys 268 The Green Hornet 'Black Beauty' Crime Fighting Car**, missing secret instructions envelope and leaflet, two replacement rockets and two original spinners, in near mint original condition. **Sold for £110, C&T Auctions, January.**



♣ **Corgi Toys 268 The Green Hornet 'Black Beauty' Crime Fighting Car**, with sealed instructions complete with rockets and spinners, in near mint original condition. **Sold for £440, C&T Auctions, January.**



♣ **Corgi Toys 277 The Monkees Monkeemobile**, red body, white roof, cast wheels, with figures of Mike, Mikey, Davey & Pete, model is in near mint original condition, with an excellent original window box, plus a Corgi club leaflet. **Sold for £140, C&T Auctions, January.**



♣ **Corgi Toys 292 Starsky & Hutch Ford Torino**, 4-spoked wheels, 3 figures, model is in mint original condition, one figure has been re glued to stand, outer window display box is good, some edge/age wear. **Sold for £190, C&T Auctions, January.**



♣ **Corgi Toys 497 The Man From Uncle Gun Firing "Thrush Buster" Oldsmobile**, metallic blue, cast wheels, plastic spot lights, in near mint original condition, with replacement 'Waverly' ring, very good outer box. **Sold for £110, C&T Auctions, January.**



♣ **Corgi Toys 497 The Man From Uncle Gun Firing "Thrush Buster" Oldsmobile**, white body, metal spot lights, cast wheels, some paint touch ups, to wings and roof, replacement 'Waverly' ring, stand and an good original outer box. **Sold for £320, C&T Auctions, January.**



♣ **Corgi Toys 803 The Beatles Yellow Submarine**, yellow and white, with red hatches in near mint original unboxed condition, complete with figures of John, Paul, Ringo and George. **Sold for £75, C&T Auctions, January.**



♣ **Dinky Toys Boxed 100 Lady Penelope's FAB 1 From TV series 'Thunderbirds'**, early issue with pink flashes on plastic sliding roof, with Lady Penelope and Parker figures, complete with paper number plates, mint. **Sold for £800, C&T Auctions, January.**



♣ **Corgi Toys 270 James Bond Aston Martin**, silver with tyre slashers, revolving number plates, rear bullet screen, retractable machine guns, red interior, James bond and bandit figures, good condition. **Sold for £150, C&T Auctions, January.**



♣ Corgi Toys 261 James Bond Aston Martin D.B.5 from the Film "Goldfinger", James Bond and bandit figures, rear bullet screen, retractable machine guns, complete with sealed secret instructions envelope. Excellent. **Sold for £800, C&T Auctions, January.**



♣ Aoshin (Japan) James Bonds Secret Agent Aston Martin DB5 Action Car, unlicensed, battery operated fully working tinplate model. In near mint original condition, original lidded illustrated box is excellent. **Sold for £660, C&T Auctions, January.**



♣ Corgi Toys 258 The "Saints" Volvo P1800, in near mint original condition, complete with Corgi Collectors Club leaflet, box complete with all end flaps, in excellent original condition, some edge/age wear. **Sold for £400, C&T Auctions, January.**



♣ Corgi Toys James Bond 336 James Bond Toyota 2000GT from the film 'You Only Live Twice', 2 original figures, rocket launchers in boot, in near mint original condition, sealed secret instructions envelope. Near mint original illustrated box, with inner display card. **Sold for £320, C&T Auctions, January.**



♣ Vintage Dinky Toys boxed diecast model No. 309 Star Trek USS Enterprise Kingdom Battle Cruiser Gift Set. Appearing near mint with missiles and x1 unused sticker decal sheet. Housed within the original box (unpunched). **Sold for £120, East Bristol Auctions, January.**



♣ An original vintage Dinky Toys boxed diecast model No. 106 Thunderbird 2. The model appearing mint within original box (unpunched). **Sold for £120, East Bristol Auctions, January.**



♣ An original vintage Corgi Major Toys boxed diecast model No. 1121 Chipperfields Circus Crane Truck. Appearing in mint ex-shop stock condition with original inner packing, instruction sheet and very good original box. **Sold for £55, East Bristol Auctions, January.**



♣ An original vintage Dinky Supertoys boxed diecast model No. 934 Leyland Octopus Wagon. Yellow and green cab and chassis, green wagon and red hubs. The model appearing very good within a good original box. **Sold for £45, East Bristol Auctions, January.**



♣ Matchbox Moko Lesney Series diecast model No. 46 Pickfords Removal Van. The van appearing very good with original sticker decals and original box (one side taped). **Sold for £80, East Bristol Auctions, January.**



♣ Tri-ang / Tri-ang Spot-On diecast model No.184 Austin A60 Cambridge. Light blue bodywork fitted with roof rack & skis appearing very good. Housed within original (repaired) box. **Sold for £65, East Bristol Auctions, January.**



♣ Vintage Shackleton made diecast clockwork / windup model of a Foden tipper truck. Blue and red bodywork with black rubber wheels (no key). Model appearing fair to good. **Sold for £220, East Bristol Auctions, January.**



♣ Vintage Moko Lesney Matchbox Series military diecast model No. 63 Service Ambulance Ford 3 Ton. Green, with black plastic wheels. Model near mint, within a good original box. **Sold for £30, East Bristol Auctions, January.**



♣ Two original vintage Dinky Supertoys boxed diecast models comprising 982 Pullmore Car Transporter and 994 Loading Ramp. Models range from fair to good, within original boxes. **Sold for £45, East Bristol Auctions, January.**



♣ Vintage Corgi Toys boxed diecast model No. 221 Chevrolet New York Taxi Cab. The model retaining original sticker decals and rear ariel appearing very good. Within original box (taped to each side). **Sold for £35, East Bristol Auctions, January.**



♣ Vintage 1970's Corgi Juniors carded diecast model No. 69 Batmobile. Contents appearing mint and sealed on an unpunched card back. **Sold for £30, East Bristol Auctions, January.**



♣ Ban Dai Playmates 1988 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles Foot Soldier figure, mint, within good (dented) bubble, upon good (creasing and edge wear) un-punched 10 back card. **Sold for £140, Vectis, January.**



♣ Ban Dai Playmates 1988 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles Donatello figure, mint, within near mint bubble, upon near mint un-punched 20 back card. **Sold for £150, Vectis, January.**



♣ Ban Dai Playmates 1988 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles Raphael figure, mint, within near mint bubble, upon near mint un-punched 20 back card. **Sold for £130, Vectis, January.**



♣ Ban Dai Playmates 1988 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles Krang figure, mint, within excellent bubble, upon excellent un-punched 20 back card. **Sold for £130, Vectis, January.**



♣ Ban Dai Playmates 1988 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles Leonardo figure, mint complete, within good (sliced open, figure can be removed) bubble, upon excellent un-punched 20 back card. **Sold for £40, Vectis, January.**



♣ Hasbro WWF 1993 Wrestling Butch of the Bushwackers figure, mint, within mint bubble, upon near mint card. **Sold for £90, Vectis, January.**



♣ Hasbro WWF 1993 Wrestling Luke of the Bushwackers figure, mint, within mint bubble, upon excellent card. **Sold for £120, Vectis, January.**



♣ Hasbro WWF 1993 Wrestling Fatu of the Head Shrinkers figure, mint, within mint bubble, upon excellent card. **Sold for £70, Vectis, January.**



♣ Hasbro WWF 1993 Wrestling Samu of the Head Shrinkers figure, mint, within mint bubble, upon excellent card. **Sold for £60, Vectis, January.**



♣ Hasbro WWF 1993 Wrestling Bam Bam Bigelow figure, mint, within mint bubble, upon excellent card. **Sold for £150, Vectis, January.**



♣ Hasbro WWF 1991 Wrestling Big Boss Man figure, mint, within mint bubble, upon excellent card. **Sold for £130, Vectis, January.**



♣ Hasbro WWF 1991 Wrestling The Undertaker figure, mint, within mint bubble, upon near mint card. **Sold for £150, Vectis, January.**



♣ Hasbro WWF 1991 Wrestling Ricky The Dragon Steamboat figure, mint, within mint bubble, upon near mint card. **Sold for £120, Vectis, January.**



♣ Hasbro WWF 1993 Wrestling Hacksaw Jim Duggan figure, mint, within mint bubble, upon good (creased) card. **Sold for £140, Vectis, January.**



♣ Hasbro WWF 1990 Wrestling Rockers Marty Jannetty & Shawn Michaels figure twin pack, mint, within near mint (yellowed) bubble, upon good plus (creasing) card. **Sold for £140, Vectis, January.**



♣ Hasbro French WWF 1991 Wrestling Typhoon figure, mint, within mint bubble, upon excellent card. **Sold for £100, Vectis, January.**



♣ Mobile Friction Plastic Batman Batmobile, red, blue windows, near mint complete, within excellent opened box. **Sold for £110, Vectis, January.**



♣ Murcielauto No.4 Batman plastic friction drive Batmobile, "Carlos" decals complete with figures, this unlicensed issue which is (made in Argentina) is generally excellent, within a good plus to excellent colourful carded box. **Sold for £150, Vectis, January.**



♣ Mattel Masters of the Universe 1984 vintage Fright Zone Play-set, near mint complete, within good opened (Spanish) box, includes instructions. **Sold for £180, Vectis, January.**



♣ Hasbro Action Man 40th Anniversary Nostalgia Collection Action Soldier figure with The Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders outfit, mint unused, within good plus opened box. **Sold for £100, Vectis, January.**



♣ Palitoy Action man Talking Commander, good, missing pull cord, within good opened box. **Sold for £130, Vectis, January.**



♣ Ideal vintage Evel Knievel Stunt Cycle with Energizer and figure, good loose, includes instructions. **Sold for £100, Vectis, January.**



♣ Hasbro GI Joe Limited Edition Navy Gunner with Twin Mount Anti-Aircraft Gun 12" figure set, mint unused, within excellent sealed packaging. **Sold for £45, Vectis, January.**



♣ DC Direct Batman Batmobile Replica 1960s Edition 952 of 1500, hand painted cold-cast porcelain model, mint complete, with inserts and paperwork, within excellent outer box. **Sold for £90, Vectis, January.**



♣ DC Direct Batman Batmobile Replica 1940s Edition 3rd in series 201 of 750, hand painted cold-cast porcelain model, mint complete, with inserts and paperwork, within excellent outer box. **Sold for £90, Vectis, January.**



♣ DC Direct Batman Batmobile Replica 1950s Edition 193 of 1500, hand painted cold-cast porcelain model, mint complete, with inserts and paperwork, within excellent outer box. **Sold for £110, Vectis, January.**



♣ Hot Wheels Mattel Batman diecast Batmobile, taken from the 1966 TV Series 1/18th scale, mint, within excellent window box. **Sold for £70, Vectis, January.**



♣ Hot Wheels 1/18th scale Batman Diecast 1989 Movie Batmobile, mint within excellent window box. **Sold for £60, Vectis, January.**



♣ Battery operated tinplate Batman Batmobile, blue, red, amber windows, near mint complete, within good plus opened box. **Sold for £400, Vectis, January.**



♣ Aoshin (Japan) friction drive Batmobile 8.5" long. Lacks windscreen Good in Fair box (base has 2 cut-outs). **Sold for £340, Vectis, January.**



◀ Star Wars Last 17 Paploo Action Figure, with original hood, staff and ROTJ tri-logo 70C cardback, excellent. **Sold for £110, Special Auction Services, January.**



◀ Star Wars Last 17 Romba Action Figure, with original hood, spear and ROTJ tri-logo 70D cardback, Clipper sticker to reverse, excellent. **Sold for £110, Special Auction Services, January.**



◀ Star Wars Last 17 Lumat Action Figure, with original hood, bow, quiver and ROTJ tri-logo 70C cardback, Clipper sticker to reverse, very good, body slightly discoloured, cardback fair. **Sold for £120, Special Auction Services, January.**

▶ Star Wars Last 17 EV-9D9 Action Figure, with original ROTJ tri-logo 70D cardback, excellent, cardback fair. **Sold for £170, Special Auction Services, January.**



▶ Star Wars Last 17 Warok Action Figure, with original hood, bow, quiver and ROTJ tri-logo 70D cardback, Clipper sticker to reverse, excellent, cardback good. **Sold for £150, Special Auction Services, January.**



▶ Star Wars Last 17 Luke Skywalker In Battle Poncho Action Figure, with original black palace blaster, cape, belt and ROTJ tri-logo 70D cardback, excellent, cardback good. **Sold for £160, Special Auction Services, January.**



◀ Star Wars Last 17 Imperial Dignitary Action Figure, with original ROTJ tri-logo 70D cardback, Clipper sticker to reverse, excellent, cardback good. **Sold for £90, Special Auction Services, January.**



◀ Star Wars Last 17 Imperial Gunner Action Figure, with original black endor blaster and ROTJ tri-logo 70D cardback, Clipper sticker to reverse, excellent, cardback good. **Sold for £170, Special Auction Services, January.**



◀ Star Wars Last 17 Luke Skywalker In Stormtrooper Outfit Action Figure, with original blue/black imperial blaster, helmet and ROTJ tri-logo 70D cardback, excellent, cardback good. **Sold for £190, Special Auction Services, January.**

▶ Vintage Star Wars Last 17 A-Wing Pilot Action Figure, with original black endor blaster and ROTJ tri-logo 70D cardback, Clipper sticker to reverse, excellent, cardback good. **Sold for £150, Special Auction Services, January.**



▶ Star Wars Last 17 Anakin Skywalker Action Figure, with original ROTJ tri-logo 70D cardback, Clipper sticker to reverse, excellent, cardback good. **Sold for £25, Special Auction Services, January.**



▶ Star Wars Last 17 Han Solo In Carbonite Action Figure, with original Carbonite Chamber and ROTJ tri-logo 70D cardback, excellent, cardback good. **Sold for £130, Special Auction Services, January.**



◀ Star Wars Last 17 Amanaman Action Figure, with original staff and ROTJ tri-logo 70D cardback, excellent, cardback fair. **Sold for £150, Special Auction Services, January.**



◀ Star Wars Last 17 Barada Action Figure, with original staff and ROTJ tri-logo 70D cardback, Clipper sticker to reverse, excellent, cardback fair. **Sold for £110, Special Auction Services, January.**



◀ Star Wars Last 17 Yak Face Action Figure, with original ROTJ tri-logo 70D cardback, excellent, cardback fair. **Sold for £240, Special Auction Services, January.**

Great Fairs to Be At - Great Fairs to Buy At

DONCASTER RACECOURSE

SUNDAY 20th FEBRUARY

10.30am - 3pm

DONCASTER EXHIBITION CENTRE, LEGER WAY, DONCASTER, DN2 6BB.

Easy motorway access from the M1, M18, M62 and A1(M).

Follow the brown racecourse signs.

Free Parking for thousands of cars.

Early Bird Entry from 8am £10.

Adults £4.50, Seniors £4, Children £1

ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S BEST FAIRS

**MORE THAN
350
STALLS**



SANDOWN PARK

SATURDAY 26th FEBRUARY

10.30am - 3pm

**SANDOWN EXHIBITION CENTRE, SANDOWN PARK
RACECOURSE, ESHER, SURREY, KT10 9AJ.**

Only 5 miles from junction 10 of the M25. From central London take the A3 to Esher.

Free Parking for 6,000 cars. Nearby Esher Railway Station is just 25 - 30 minutes from London Waterloo, Victoria and Clapham Junction Stations.

Early Bird Entry from 8am £12.

Adults £6.50, Seniors £6, Children £2.

**500
STALLS**



EUROPE'S No.1 TOY COLLECTORS FAIR

STAFFORD SHOWGROUND

SUNDAY 13th MARCH

10.30am - 3pm

**THE PRESTWOOD AND ARGYLE SUITES, STAFFORD COUNTY
SHOWGROUND, WESTON ROAD, STAFFORD, ST18 0BD**

Situated on the A518 Stafford to Uttoxeter road. Signposted from junction 14 of the M6 motorway. **Free parking.**

Early Bird Entry from 8am £8.

Adults £4, Senior Citizens £3.50, Children £1

A GREAT WEST MIDLANDS TOY FAIR

**MORE THAN
300
STALLS**



NEC BIRMINGHAM

SUNDAY 20th MARCH

10.30am - 3pm

HALL 18, NATIONAL EXHIBITION CENTRE, BIRMINGHAM, B40 1NT.

The NEC is located at junction 6 of the M42. Easy access from M1, M5, M6 and M40. **Unlimited FREE Parking for all Toy Fair visitors.** Take the train directly to the NEC (Birmingham International Station is a short walk from Hall 18)

Early Bird Entry from 8am £15.

Adults £9, Seniors £8.50, Children £2

**550
STALLS**



BRITAIN'S BIGGEST TOY FAIR

BUXTON

SUNDAY 27th MARCH

10.30am - 3pm

**THE OCTAGON HALL, PAVILION GARDENS, ST. JOHNS ROAD, BUXTON,
DERBYSHIRE, SK17 6XN.**

Early Bird Entry from 8am £6.

Adults £3, Seniors £2.50, Children £1

**150
STALLS**



ENJOY A GREAT DAY OUT IN BEAUTIFUL BUXTON

www.bpfairs.com Tel: 01604 846688 / 07966 527177

NORTHGATE AUCTION ROOMS LTD
AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS
 incorporating A. Hopewell & Son Established 1879

SATURDAY 19TH MARCH 2022
at 10am

Viewing: Friday prior 2pm - 5pm and morning of sale from 8.30am
Catalogues from auctioneers office or online from 10th March 2022

17 Northgate, Newark, Notts NG24 1EX
 • Tel: (01636) 605905 Fax: (01636) 612607
 • Email: Auctions@NorthgateAuctionRoomsNewark.co.uk
www.NorthgateAuctionRoomsNewark.co.uk

Sale of 20th Century toys, trains, models, dolls and related juvenilia including:
 Dinky and Corgi toys, Dinky Supertoys, Corgi Major Toys, Corgi Toys, Corgi Classics, Britains Toys, trains and rolling stock, childrens books and novels, soft toys, teddy bears, children's games etc.

gth Greenslade Taylor Hunt

COLLECTOR'S SALE
Friday 11th March



The Octagon Salerooms, 113a East Reach, Taunton, TA1 3HL
 01823 332525 ■ antiques.saleroom@gth.net ■ www.gth.net

Est. 2011. **COLLECTABLES R US LTD** In Store & Online

THE UK'S MODEL EXPERTS
 WE ARE AN INDEPENDENT FAMILY RUN BUSINESS, PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT BUSINESSES



Collectables R Us offers a mixture of new and vintage stock in store and online. We have a huge array of train sets, locomotives, rolling stock and scenery. We also sell R/C, Humbrol paints and Plastic kits.



MINI GT FULL RANGE AVAILABLE NOW

CORGI 2022 PLACE YOUR PRE-ORDERS NOW

Tel: 01494 440598 | Mob: 07476 379 158
www.collectablesrus.co.uk
 Email: enquiries@collectablesrus.com

Unit 6, The Chiterns, High Wycombe, HP13 5ES

Andrew Clark Models
 Est. 1981  **Collectors Toys**

Email: andrew@andrewclarkmodels.com
 Or post list to: Andrew Clark Models, Unit 1, Toller Court, Shortbank Road, Skipton, North Yorkshire. BD23 2HG

WANTED NOW!

All Diecast, Tinplate, Toys and Trains
Top prices paid for;

Dinky, Corgi, Matchbox, Spot-On, Tinplate Toy, All Trains, Planes, Britains, Scalextric, White Metal Models, Minichamps, Quality 1/18 scale models, Plastic Kits (Airfix etc...), Modern Collectibles.

- Anything Considered
- Will collect and pay on the day
- Will pay in a method to suit you
- Large collections a speciality, established 1981
- Many auction prices beaten




Call Andrew Today on 07753 804232 (Best Number) or 01756 793354

Always a brilliant selection of Dinky, Corgi, Matchbox, Tinplate Toys, White Metal Models etc...
 With new stock everyweek on our superb website!

Check out andrewclarkmodels.com

Also listing on ebay every week
 Username: [andrewclarkmodels2](https://www.ebay.co.uk/user/andrewclarkmodels2)



Toy Stories

Were the models produced a realistic representation? **Ed Karswell** takes a look...

The comparison between models and their real-life counterparts is a given but not always in a way one would expect. Add collectors and the passage of time into the mix and things start to get interesting. For example, let's take one of Matchbox Toys' most famous 1-75 models, namely the No.31b the Vauxhall Cresta. The Cresta is well known for its myriad attractive, and sometimes scarce, variations that regularly light up the auctions. In fact, it's so famous it has practically passed into Matchbox collecting folklore. I wonder though, how many American collectors have seen a real PA Cresta? Or for that matter, how many UK collectors have ever seen one in the flesh of the type modelled by Lesney? Although the toy was a handsome and long-lived beast the real thing proved to be a lot less durable with many PA's succumbing to terminal corrosion only a few years after leaving the factory. This makes even the rarest models ubiquitous by comparison!

Now, Tri-ang's Spot-on range are already well-known for including some rare marques among their ranks. One of these, released in 1959, was the Armstrong Siddeley Sapphire, No.101. The Sapphire was a stylish car but sadly for all concerned car production at Armstrong Siddeley ceased in 1960. Although it's a popular model with collectors, when did you last (or ever) see a real one on the road? So, whilst the model can still be readily had you may have a real job on your hands finding the real thing.

One of my favourites is the Corgi Chrysler Ghia L64, No.241. Although Corgi must have sold thousands, and there must be one in every Corgi collection, does anyone know what it is? Well

in short it was a collaboration between Chrysler and the Italian coachbuilders, Ghia. It was ludicrously expensive, and the likes of Frank Sinatra and Lucille Ball were among their customers. Only around 26 examples were built so the likelihood of seeing one at your local fete is slim. However, you've got to admire Corgi for having the sheer chutzpa for making it in the first place.

Whilst we're speaking of Chryslers it would be rude not to include one of the most modelled sales failures of all time. The Chrysler Airflow, introduced in 1931, was an art deco masterpiece and so thought a myriad toy makers including Dinky Toys. Dinky released their Chrysler Airflow in 1935 and re-released it for a short time after the war. Back in the early days of collecting the Dinky Airflow was considered hot property with its perceived rarity giving it a healthy price premium over its contemporaries. In truth it wasn't really that rare, at least not compared to the real car. Airflows, whilst rare cars in the States, where barely seen in the UK. Thank God Dinky carried the torch!

Talking of carrying torches, one must of course mention Morestone and their famous Wolseley 6/80 police car, which they released in two sizes no less! With television shows such as Scotland Yard and numerous film appearances it's become an unlikely part of British pop culture. Its easy to forget that it is now over 60 years ago that they were last used in active service. Budgie re-issued the Wolseley into the 1960s and there was even a small revival in the 1980s. Small wonder then that the model is ubiquitous, and most toy fairs will yield at least a few examples. As for the real car, well it's certainly not a common beast but at least it's just as impressive in the flesh as it appears on screen.

Time for another Matchbox and one from their slightly mad period of the early 1970s. The model in question is No.75c, the Alfa Carabo, which although looking like a door wedge, fired the imaginations of us kids. Everyone seemed to have one in their toy box, and I even asked my dad if we could buy a real one. Now, this really would have been a tall order as it was only built as a styling exercise by Bertone and was not destined for

production. Also, the real thing was painted metallic green rather than Matchbox's funky mauve and yellow. Nevertheless, Matchbox collectors would be the only people who could identify it should one turn up in Tesco's car park.

The last word, if there is one, has to go to who else but Tri-ang Spot-on. Its choice of No The Meadows Frisky Sport looks truly baffling today. In retrospect though it's understandable. After the Suez crisis small economy cars became very popular in the UK and became a relatively common sight. Meadows were a supplier of automotive, air and marine engines so it wasn't a giant leap for them to develop a small vehicle. So, the Meadows Frisky Sport was born. The 'bubble' car craze as it was sometimes called was short, so within a few years most had disappeared off the roads.

Matchbox Superfasts probably caused more angst than anything else. After the Corabo re-buff I then asked my dad if we could buy a real 'Tyre Fryer' which was No.42 in the range. He dismissed it as not being a real car, which after searching the roads of Tewkesbury for months on end, I had to concur with. **CG**





Kinver's new toy fair

Ann Evans visits the the latest addition to the collecting scene. **Photos by Rob Tysall**

There was a warm welcome awaiting visitors and collectors at the brand-new Toy and Train Fair, held at Kinver near Stourbridge on Sunday 16th January.

In these unsettled times, when more and more collectors are relying on the internet to buy and sell their collections, plus of course, Covid playing havoc with everyone's social life, it was fantastic to see a brand-new toy and train fair opening to the public.

The event was run by Ros Bushill and her son Chris, and although it was a new toy fair, the mum and son duo are no strangers to running events. Ros and her late husband, David, have been running antique fairs, bric-a-brac fairs and craft fairs, at the Kinver Community Centre under the umbrella of Central Promotions since 1984.

Ros told *Collectors Gazette*, "We're really

excited to be finally running a toy and train fair. It's something we've both wanted to do for a long time, but there has never been the opportunity to squeeze one into the Kinver venue until now. We're hoping it's going to become a regular, popular event. The nice thing about families coming to this venue is that you can enjoy a family day out. There's parkland and a children's playground right next to it, and from Easter to October there's also a miniature railway running."

Her son Chris has clear memories of those early days, and even of being tucked in his carry cot and left to sleep under the counter at the entrance hall when he was a baby. Then, as a toddler of racing around the main hall clutching his pillow and no doubt keeping the stallholders on their toes. He said, "My interest in model trains started, like lots of kids, with *Thomas the Tank Engine* when I

was very young. But then it grew, especially after I'd discovered N Gauge at a Warley Show."

Chris added that his dad first set him up to run a toy and train fair in the early 2000s but when his dad passed away, the toy fair dream died too for a time. Nevertheless, Chris' own interest in 'N' gauge and 'OO' gauge model railways remained strong, he became a member of Telford Model Rail Group, and his day job is cataloguing items for an auction house.

We found that there was a really friendly atmosphere to the 36-table venue. Some of the traders who attend Central Promotion's bric-a-brac, antique or craft fairs, also crossed over into toy and train, and so knowing one another led to lots of banter and good humour. And importantly (to me), a really nice touch was the volunteer-run café where you could get something delicious to eat – including a

mouth-watering selection of home-made cakes!

As we browsed the stands there was lots to see, from tinplate to diecast, boxed games from the 1950s to sci-fi of the '60s, *Rupert* annuals and Batman figures, model railway locos and accessories as well as dolls and teddies and much more. Our first port of call was at Mandy's stand, who is an avid collector of Funko Pops. These vinyl figurines with their black-eyes, large, almost square heads and disproportionately small bodies have become a massive craze since they were launched in 2011 by US company Funko Inc. Each figure is based on a pop culture character and at the last count there are 8,366 different figurines to choose from.

It seems the company's motto is 'everyone is a fan of something', so whether you're a fan of Freddie Mercury or the *Flintstones*, there will be a Funko Pop

ABOVE LEFT
Louise Bayley and her soft toys.

ABOVE RIGHT
Mandy at her stand at Kinver.

boxed figure for you.

Mandy has been collecting Funko Pops for the last few years and finds herself drawn more to the horror characters. She told *Collectors Gazette*, "I've been collecting these for about 6 years. There are so many characters to collect, and currently I am more into horror Funky."

She'd had a bit of a sort out of her collection and brought along some of her excess stock. She also had some of Chris Reynold's (F.P.D Displays) dioramas for anyone wanting to take their Funko Pop out of its box and display in situ.

Nearby were collectors and stall holders Trevor and Shirley. Unusually, it was Shirley's interest in collecting dolls and teddies 40 years ago that got Trevor



ABOVE
Thunderbirds are go!



ABOVE
Plenty for the doll fans at Kinver.



ABOVE A nice way of displaying Funky Pops.



ABOVE Reproduction tinplate – cute!



LEFT
Stallholder Peter
with a variety of
collectables.

interested in collecting Dinkies of the 1950s and 60s. He said, “Forty years ago, I found myself sitting behind a counter of teddy bears and dolls, which was Shirley’s interest rather than mine. Then we went to an auction where a particular lot of teddies and dolls came with four boxes of cars. I took one look at these, saw there were some tinplate Japanese Jalopy vehicles – and wallop! That got me started.”

Amongst their items for sale, there was a particularly lovely large teddy on sale for £65. “We think it’s a Merrythought,” said Shirley. “It’s got bells in its ears and velvet paw pads. He’s in a lovely condition.” And no doubt if he didn’t sell, the couple would be happily taking him back home to their bedroom

where he’s dwelt for quite a few years.

Jean and German born Lorenz Bodefeld had a much sought-after model on their stand – Tracy Island which was the 1993 British Association of Toy Retailers’ Toy of the Year. As any child of the 1960s knows, Tracy Island is the secret headquarters of the International Rescue Organisation in *Thunderbirds*, the 1960s TV series by Gerry and Sylvia Anderson. The model with sound effects, and palm trees that swing outwards to accommodate the wingspan of Thunderbird 2, was on sale for around £65.

It comes complete with the tale told by Lorenz of the brother and sister who were given this toy years ago but did nothing but squabble over it. So, this Tracy Island

was locked away in an attic, was never played with and the children never forgave each other! Sad story aside – it’s a nice model for any *Thunderbirds* collector.

Especially for collectors who particularly like unique soft toys and miniatures, Louise Bayley had some lovely items on her stand – the majority being all her own work. Louise is a fully trained 2D/3D and stop motion artist and animator. She collects teddy bears and sci-fi items, and when she’s not at toy fairs, she’s at Steampunk events, wearing costumes that she’d made herself. With her cute Minnie Mouse hat on, Louise talked about the one-of-a-kind teddies she designs and makes, along with room box scenes incorporating smaller teddies and miniature jack-in-the-boxes



ABOVE
Dioramas by Chris Reynolds of F.P.D Displays.



Tracy Island.

for dolls houses.

Louise told us, “I’ve been into teddies ever since my uncle bought me a Micky Mouse soft toy when I was about five – so he’s to blame! I design and make all my own patterns and toys, including many of the wooden toys such as the jack-in-the-boxes which I also paint. They are all one of a kind and all my own designs.”

Louise has been doing this for less than a year and this was her first toy fair. She got a degree in Animation at university, but health problems made it impossible to pursue a career in that line of work, so she self-taught herself to make soft toys and

miniatures.

At the end of the day, we caught up with co-organiser Chris Bushill again who said he was really pleased about how his first toy and train fair had gone. “This is something we’ve been wanting to put on for years but never had the chance until now. There’s always a friendly atmosphere here at Kinver. It’s been good that some of our traders from the antiques, the bric-a-brac and the craft events have come along and supported our first toy fair. It’s gone much better than I’d dared hope. Now the plan is to host a toy and train fair every third Sunday here at Kinver. While other dates will host our other fairs.” **CG**

Further details...

- The Kinver Toy & Train Fair, Organised by Ros and Chris Bushill of Central Promotions at Kinver Community Centre, Edward Marsh Playing Field, Kinver, West Midlands. DY7 6ER. Open from 10.30am – 3.30pm. Admission £1. Telephone 07443 480840

RAY HEARD TRAIN & TOY FAIRS

NEWTON ABBOT

SUNDAY 13TH MARCH

Newton Abbot Racecourse,
Devon, TQ12 3AF

(follow the brown racecourse direction signs)

- Admission: £3 Times: 10am to 3.00pm
- Free car parking Refreshments available
- 160 tables 60+ traders

NEWTON ABBOT

SUNDAY 29TH MAY

Newton Abbot Racecourse,
Devon, TQ12 3AF

(follow the brown racecourse direction signs)

- Admission: £3 Times: 10am to 3.00pm
- Free car parking Refreshments available
- 160 tables 60+ traders

For more information please contact
Ray Heard on **01823 480097**

Bulldog Fairs



Great Toy Collectors Fairs in the Southwest of England

Shepton Mallet

Up to
300 Stalls

Royal Bath & West Showground BA4 6QN

Toy & Train Collectors Fair

Sunday 27th March

10.30am - 2.30pm

Admission: Adults £4.00 each
16yrs and under free with paying adult
Early Bird from 08.30 £10.00
1000's of toys and models for sale.
Dealers from all over the UK.
Trains "Boats" "Cars" "Trucks" and "Planes"



Probably the Best Toy Collectors Fairs in the West

Call us on 01373 452857 or 07917 125641

Email: bulldogfairs@aol.com

web site: www.bulldogfairs.com



Model Tractor, Construction & Literature 2022

Sunday 3rd April

10am until 3pm

Springfields Exhibition Centre Spalding, Lincolnshire. PE12 6ET

Farm toy collectors fair for model tractor enthusiasts

Books, Videos, Leaflets, Brochures and Manuals

Vintage and Classic Tractor display

Diorama Competition - Cash Prizes

SHOW MODEL AVAILABLE ON THE DAY

Entry: £6, accompanied children Free

www.spaldingmodeltractor.com

spaldingmodeltractor@gmail.com

07710 321471

SRP TOYFAIRS Presents

WORTHING, W. SUSSEX

SUNDAY 20 FEBRUARY 9.45am - 1.15pm

DURRINGTON HIGH SCHOOL, THE BOULEVARD, WORTHING, BN13 1JX

WEST KINGSDOWN

TUESDAY 22 FEBRUARY 6.15pm - 8.15pm Adults £1.50 Under 18s Free

WEST KINGSDOWN VILLAGE HALL, LONDON ROAD, WEST KINGSDOWN, TN15 6BZ

HERNE BAY, KENT

SATURDAY 5 MARCH 9.45am - 1.15pm

HERNE BAY HIGH SCHOOL, BULLOCKSTONE ROAD, HERNE BAY, KENT, CT6 7NS

ORPINGTON, KENT

SUNDAY 13 MARCH 9.45am - 1.15pm

CROFTON HALLS, ORPINGTON, KENT, BR6 8PR

HAWKINGE, KENT

SATURDAY 19 MARCH 9.45am - 1.15pm

HAWKINGE COMMUNITY CENTRE, HERON FORSTAL AVENUE, HAWKINGE, CT18 7FP

RAYLEIGH, ESSEX

SUNDAY 20 MARCH 9.45am - 1.15pm

SWEYNE PARK SCHOOL, RAYLEIGH, ESSEX SS6 9BZ

DITTON, KENT

SUNDAY 27 MARCH 9.45am - 1.15pm

DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE, KILN BARN ROAD, DITTON, KENT, ME20 6AH

WORTHING, W. SUSSEX

SUNDAY 10 APRIL 9.45am - 1.15pm

DURRINGTON HIGH SCHOOL, THE BOULEVARD, WORTHING, BN13 1JX

MIDHURST, WEST SUSSEX

FRIDAY 15 APRIL 9.45am - 1.15pm

THE GRANGE, BEPTON ROAD, MIDHURST, WEST SUSSEX, GU29 9HD

RAYLEIGH, ESSEX

SUNDAY 17 APRIL 9.45am - 1.15pm

SWEYNE PARK SCHOOL, RAYLEIGH, ESSEX SS6 9BZ

BROOMFIELD, CHELMSFORD

SUNDAY 24 APRIL 9.45am - 1.15pm

CHELMER VALLEY SCHOOL (NXT TO BROOMFIELD HOSPITAL), CHELMSFORD, CM1 7HA

NEW ADULT PRICE £2.50 ALL CHILDREN UNDER 18 FREE!

ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES, PLEASE WEAR
FACEMASKS UNLESS EXEMPT, HAND SANITISER STATIONS PROVIDED AT SHOW

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: GERRY ON 07739 998012

srptoys1@hotmail.co.uk



www.j-jwebbtoyfairs.com

01522 880383



ST IVES SUNDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2022

One Leisure St Ives, Burgess Hall Events & Conference Centre, Westwood Road,
St Ives, Cambridgeshire, PE27 6WU.

10am - 2.30pm >> approx. 125 tables >> 6ft table £32 >> Ad £3, Sen £2.50, 1st Ch £2

LINCOLNSHIRE SUNDAY 6TH MARCH 2022

The Exhibition Centre, Lincolnshire Showground, Lincoln, LN2 2NA

10am - 2.30pm >> approx. 150 tables >> 6ft table £32

>> Ad £3, Sen £2.50, 1st Ch £2

SPALDING SUNDAY 20TH MARCH 2022

Springfields Events & Conference Centre, Camelgate, Spalding, Lincs PE12 6ET

10am - 2.30pm >> approx. 150 tables >> 6ft table £32

>> Ad £3, Sen £2.50, 1st Ch £2

ST IVES SUNDAY 10TH APRIL 2022

One Leisure St Ives, Burgess Hall Events & Conference Centre, Westwood Road,
St Ives, Cambridgeshire, PE27 6WU.

10am - 2.30pm >> approx. 125 tables >> 6ft table £32 >> Ad £3, Sen £2.50, 1st Ch £2

LINCOLNSHIRE SUNDAY 8TH MAY 2022

The Exhibition Centre, Lincolnshire Showground, Lincoln, LN2 2NA

10am - 2.30pm >> approx. 150 tables >> 6ft table £32

>> Ad £3, Sen £2.50, 1st Ch £2

SPALDING SUNDAY 22ND MAY 2022

Springfields Events & Conference Centre, Camelgate, Spalding, Lincs PE12 6ET

10am - 2.30pm >> approx. 150 tables >> 6ft table £32

>> Ad £3, Sen £2.50, 1st Ch £2

For bookings and further information

please telephone Lorraine on

01522 880383

Email: jandjfairs@virginmedia.com

CREWE TOY AND TRAIN COLLECTOR'S FAIR
Crewe Heritage Centre, Vernon Way, Crewe, Cheshire CW1 2DB

SATURDAY 12TH MARCH
10.30am - 3.30pm. 6ft Table for £20

TRAINS, DINKIES, TINPLATES, MECCANO, RAILWAYANA...and much, much more!
Bookings: Crewe Model Engineering Society, 93 Martin Way, Crewe, CW1 3YP
Tel: 01270 505781 before 8pm (not Saturdays or Sundays)

The Stowmarket Model Railway Club 75th Toy & Train Fair
Needham Market Community Centre, School Street, Needham Market, Suffolk IP8 8BB

Sunday 6th March
10.30am - 3.30pm
Admission: £5.00 (children free)
Refreshments available
Free parking, refreshments
Organised by Stowmarket Railway Club
For further information call 01449 672698
www.stowrailclub.org.uk

CANCELLED

WIMBORNE
Model Toys & Trains Collectors Fair
Queen Elizabeth's Leisure Centre,
Blandford Road, Wimborne Minster, Dorset, BH21 4DT

Sunday 20th March 2022
10.15am - 2.30pm
Large FREE Car Park and refreshments
Enquiries to Dave on
(01202) 590158 or 07808 484414

TONBRIDGE
Thursday
24th March
6.30pm - 8.30pm
The Angel Centre, Angel Lane,
Tonbridge TN9 1SF

For more details please call:
07810 513576 or 07866 641215

ARDINGLY TOYFAIR
Ardingly Showground, West Sussex, RH17 6TL
Sunday 27th February 9.30am - 1pm

HORSHAM SATURDAY TOYFAIR
Broadbridge Heath Village Hall, Wickhurst Lane, RH12 3LY
Saturday 23rd April 9.30am - 1pm

Call: PETE 01424 846676 or DAVID 07742 609865

DEVCON
SCI-FI, TOY, FILM & COMIC FAIR
TICKETS FROM £6

MARCH 5TH
PLYMOUTH
GUILDHALL
PL1 2AA

50+ TRADERS, GUEST ACTORS, COMIC ARTISTS, FAB SPECIAL FEATURES, COSPLAY

Traders and Artists...We Need YOU!
TEL: 07508 548 938 eventsfrontier@hotmail.com

Lilliput World ...the world in miniature

Largest selection of collectable vintage lead civilian toys from all key UK makers including:
Britains • Charbens • John Hill • Taylor & Barrett • Crescent • Timpo

"By far the best online site for collectors of hollow-cast lead civilian figures.
Service & shipping second to none."
Norman Joplin

BUY SECURELY ONLINE FOR SPEEDY INSURED SHIPMENT WORLDWIDE

www.lilliputworld.co.uk

A new show for 2022 from SRP TOYFAIRS!
WORTHING
Durrington High School, The Boulevard, Worthing, BN13 1JX
Three long malls of toystalls and possibly train layouts!
FIRST SHOW Sunday 20th February
9.45am - 1.15pm
Adults £2.50 Accompanied under 18s free
Car parking available for 350 & refreshments on site
Future dates - 10th April, 19th June, 25th September, 20th November
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: GERRY ON 07739 998012 | srptoys1@hotmail.co.uk

NOW ON SALE!

JUST £6.99* +P&P

With over 1000 listings, all accompanied with detailed descriptions and colour photography, this is the ultimate way to estimate how much your vintage toy collection is worth.

TOY COLLECTORS PRICE GUIDE 2022
YOUR ESSENTIAL FIELD GUIDE TO CLASSIC TOY COLLECTABLES

WHAT'S IT WORTH?
We help put an estimate on your toy collection

£400K WORTH OF Diecast, Railways, Tinplate, TV & Film, and online sales results!

INCLUDING...

- Diecast Models: Hundreds of models from Corgi, Dinky & many more
- Film Favourites: From iconic-breaking Star Wars to James Bond cars
- Top Tinplate Toys: From robots to Mikes and boots, we have it all covered

Order today by calling **01778 392480** or go to **ccofgb.uk/dcc-tcp22**

LONDON TOY SOLDIER SHOW
SATURDAY, 26 MARCH 2022
HAVERSTOCK SCHOOL, NW3 2BQ

THE LARGEST TOY SOLDIER SHOW IN EUROPE

With over 150 trader tables, including King & Country, W Britain, Thomas Gunn, First Legion, John Jenkins Designs and Black Hawk, plus many other traders.

At the show, you will find a host of traders, TSC&HF magazine editorial team and contributors, as well as fellow enthusiasts with whom you can chat and obtain advice prior to purchasing. Mike Blake will be showcasing a Wargaming demonstration. There will also be free valuations from James Opie - C&T Auctioneers.

www.toysoldiersshow.co.uk

FUTURE SHOWS FOR 2022: 24 JUNE, 03 DECEMBER.

FREE trader parking and FREE visitor parking.

Opening times:
Early bird: 9.30-10.30 (£10)
10.30 - 14.00 (£6.00)
14.00 - 16.00 (£4.00)

Prepaid tickets:
£5 from 10.30am
Children under 16: FREE

Sponsored by **TOY SOLDIER COLLECTOR** & HISTORICAL FIGURES

For any information regarding the show please contact
Stella Reeson +44 (0)1582 668411
Tom Foxon +44 (0)7540153368

To book your trade space e-mail
tom@guidelinepublications.co.uk
General Enquiries
stella@guidelinepublications.co.uk

Guideline Publications
Guideline Publications, 6 Kensworth Gate, 200-204 High Street South, Dunstable, Bedfordshire LU6 3HS

Obsolete

Z

Our monthly gaze into the weird but wonderful world of collector/dealer **Obsolete Oz**. Buying and selling since the 1970s, Oz has developed a great knack for unearthing some amazing finds from flea markets, antique fairs, car boot sales, rubbish skips and even the local tip.

Hi folks! Although we are still battling against the bleak mid-winter the weather remained kind for the last massive Malvern Fleamarket and it was great to finally share a bit of banter with a few collectors and dealers I hadn't seen for a very long time due to Covid restrictions. Malvern is where north meets south so you always get a great mix of buyers and sellers. It was just great to be out there again under those picturesque Malvern Hills and a healthy turn out of sellers resulted in a bumper day for buyers. My bags were all full by lunchtime as I trudged back to the car through the mud.

One of my best buys at the Three Counties was a Dinky Foden DG eight-wheeled wagon which I bought for a fiver... yes, a fiver! I would have bagged another had someone not grabbed it right in front of me. It's a bit play worn but I really can't complain at that price. A quantity of toys had been discovered during a recent house clearance and thrown out onto a huge plastic sheet on the grass at the show. There was such a scramble with all sorts of goodies there for the taking if you could grab them quick enough! That's what makes these shows so exciting... it's the thrill of the hunt!

Also off that sheet came a complete box of Airfix British Infantry Support Group Figures bagged for the bargain price of three quid!

Another great little find was a Coventry City matchbox which I reckon dates from the 1960s. These were the days when Coventry rose to become a strong First Division outfit under the

leadership of Jimmy Hill. I fished this box out from a tin of old needlework bits and bobs where it was being used to hold safety pins. I must admit I've never seen these football club matchboxes before and when I showed it to a matchbox collector neither had he! So it must be a bit of a rarity and no doubt of great interest to Coventry City fans.

Like buses, things often turn up in pairs, and another great little matchbox turned up at the local boot sale for the princely sum of fifty pence. It advertises Blackpool Pleasure Beach and looks to date from the 1930s or possibly earlier? The smiling sun is a great piece of graphic design epitomising all the fun of the fair. I love the little miniature railway that weaves beneath all the big thrill rides on Blackpool Pleasure Beach... fantastic!

Still on a nostalgic theme one of my best recent buys came from a charity shop where I was more than happy to pay four quid for a fab *Z-Cars* annual. All the famous old characters are there in the stories played in the TV series by the likes of Stratford Johns, Frank Windsor, James Ellis and Brian Blessed. This fictional police drama ran for a whopping 801 episodes and was based in the fictional town of Newtown in the north of England. The programme was first screened on BBC1 on 2nd January 1962 and the annual was published for the following Christmas of 1963. The theme tune was based on a traditional folk song by Johnny Todd and reached number eight in the hit parade when it was released as a single by Picadilly. The thing I most enjoyed about *Z-Cars* as a kid was those splendid cars, a Ford Zephyr and a Ford Zodiac

known as Z-Victor 1 and Z-Victor 2. Were they ever released as diecast models I wonder?

Sticking to the theme of road vehicles on the selling front a diecast AA motorcycle patrol unit soon found a buyer willing to pay my £20 asking price. I never got the chance to do any research on it so I'm still not sure who made it? Or if it had the correct rider as his arms were nowhere near in line with the handle bars?

A really interesting Cloister gramophone needle tin also sold quickly for a tenner. I'd never seen one of these Cloister tins before so it might have been a bit of a rarity, who knows? It always amazes me how so many different subjects were pictured on needle tins, everything from submarines to birds, planes, soldiers and ancient buildings... the scope for collectors is immense and they are really easy to display.

A lovely hard back *Pixie Tales* story book by Enid Blyton sold for a fiver to a keen Blyton collector. It was published by Collins in 1969 and in true Enid Blyton fashion is full of all those wonderfully

animate gnomes, goblins, fairies, giants and wizards. Enid Blyton's unique freshness of style can be enjoyed in all her books which makes them so sought after by collectors'.

A Dinky Toy diesel road roller in very tidy condition but without a box made fifteen pounds and went to a young Dinky Toy collector, just getting his collection off the ground which I always like to see. We all have to start somewhere and young folk are the future of the hobby.

Last but not least it's a return to Enid Blyton with a cute little biscuit tin depicting Noddy handing over cash to his rosy cheeked milkman. It was issued by Huntley & Palmers of Reading in the late 1950s when Noddy was loved millions of kids, myself included. I learned to read with Noddy books back in the late 1950s and still have one with drawings I did as a four year old inside.

Well that's about all for yet another dark winter month folks. Stay warm, look forward to those longer days and the advent of spring and, as always, be lucky! **CG**



RIGHT
What a buy! Lucky old Oz strikes again scooping up this classic Dinky Supertoy for a fiver.

**LEFT**

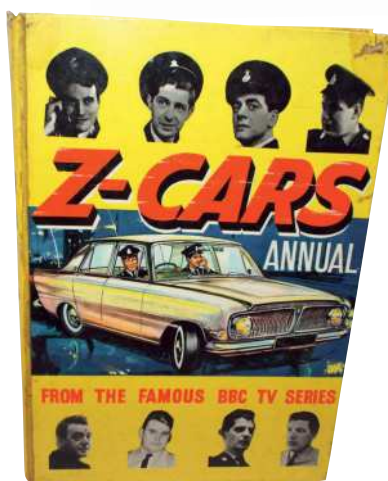
Coventry City shot to fame as a First Division football club in the 1960s. Was this one of a series of football club matchboxes?

**RIGHT**

This diecast AA patrol motorcycle and rider soon found a buyer willing to pay Oz's asking price of twenty quid.

RIGHT

This cute little matchbox was sold at Blackpool Pleasure Beach back in the 1930s and is a very rare survivor.

**MIDDLE RIGHT**

This Z-Cars annual dates from 1963 and pictures that iconic Ford Zephyr police car Z-Victor 1 on its cover.

**ABOVE**

A delightful little book written by Enid Blyton, Pixie Tales was snapped up by a book collector for £5.00... worth every penny.

**LEFT**

A rare Cloister tin containing 200 gramophone needles made in Sheffield was bought by a needle tin collector for a tenner

FAR LEFT

Originally containing Huntley & Palmers biscuits this lovely little Noddy tin dates from the late 1950s and was in lovely condition.

**ABOVE**

It certainly was Oz's lucky day with this fully complete box of Airfix British Infantry Support Group figures snapped up for three quid!

BELOW

A nice example but without a box, this Dinky Toy diesel road roller will help a young collector develop a nice little collection of obsolete diecast toys.



»EVENTS THIS MONTH

FAIRS

19 FEBRUARY

- **Maidstone**, Maidstone Vintage Toy Fair, 01622 298159 or 01732 840787
- **Llangollen**, Chris Dyer Fairs, 01643 702757 or 07966 694579

20 FEBRUARY

- **Worthing**, SRP Toy Fairs, 07739 998012
- **Doncaster**, BP Fairs, 01604 846688 or 07966 527177
- **Exeter**, Bulldog Fairs, 01373 452857

22 FEBRUARY

- **West Kingsdown**, SRP Toy Fairs, 07739 998012

26 FEBRUARY

- **Sandown Park**, BP Fairs, 01604 846688 or 07966 527177

27 FEBRUARY

- **St Ives**, J&J Fairs, 01522 880383
- **Ardingly**, David Parsons, 01424 846676 or 07742 609865

5 MARCH

- **Herne Bay**, SRP Toy Fairs, 07739 998012
- **Plymouth**, Events Frontier, 07508 548938

6 MARCH

- **Lincolnshire**, J&J Fairs, 01522 880383
- **Suffolk**, Stowmarket Railway Club, 01449 611188

7 MARCH

- **Plymouth**, Devcon Sci-Fi, Toy, Film & Comic Fair, 07508 548938

12 MARCH

- **Crewe**, Crewe Model Engineering Society, 01270 505781

13 MARCH

- **Stafford**, BP Fairs, 01604 846688 or 07966 527177
- **Newton Abbot**, Ray Heard, 01823 480097
- **Orpington**, SRP Toy Fairs, 07739 998012

19 MARCH

- **Hawkinge**, SRP Toy Fairs, 07739 998012

20 MARCH

- **Birmingham**, BP Fairs, 01604 846688 or 07966 527177
- **Wimborne**, David Rees, 01202 590158 or 07808 484414
- **Spalding**, J&J Fairs, 01522 880383
- **Rayleigh**, SRP Toy Fairs, 07739 998012

24 MARCH

- **Tonbridge**, Joe Lock, 07810 513576 or 07866 641215

26 MARCH

- **London**, The London Toy Soldier Show 01582 668411 or 07540 153368

27 MARCH

- **Shepton Mallet**, Bulldog Fairs, 01373 452857
- **Ditton**, SRP Toy Fairs, 07739 998012
- **Buxton**, BP Fairs, 01604 846688 or 07966 527177
- **Leeds**, Steel Promotions, 0161 283 1255 or 0161 766 2012

3 APRIL

- **Potters Bar**, Joe Lock, 07866 641215
- **Doncaster**, BP Fairs, 01604 846688 or 07966 527177
- **Spalding**, Colin Boor, 07710 321471

AUCTIONS

18 FEBRUARY

- **Stockton-on-Tees**, Vectis, 01642 750616
- **Bury St Edmunds**, Lacy Scott & Knight, 01284 748623

22 FEBRUARY

- **Stockton-on-Tees**, Vectis, 01642 750616

23 FEBRUARY

- **Stockton-on-Tees**, Vectis, 01642 750616

24 FEBRUARY

- **Stockton-on-Tees**, Vectis, 01642 750616

28 FEBRUARY

- **Stockton-on-Tees**, Vectis, 01642 750616
- **Chester**, UK Toy & Model Auctions, 01270 652773 or 07892870729

8 MARCH

- **Derby**, Bamfords Auctioneers, 01332 210000

10 MARCH

- **Stockton-on-Tees**, Vectis, 01642 750616

11 MARCH

- **Taunton**, Greenslade Taylor Hunt, 01823 332525
- **Stockton-on-Tees**, Vectis, 01642 750616

16 MARCH

- **Warwick**, Warwick & Warwick, 01926 499031

18 MARCH

- **Newbury**, Special Auction Services, 01635 580595

19 MARCH

- **Newark**, Northgate Auction Rooms, 01636 605905

24 MARCH

- **Stockton-on-Tees**, Vectis, 01642 750616

25 MARCH

- **Stockton-on-Tees**, Vectis, 01642 750616

26 MARCH

- **Kings Langley**, Excalibur Auctions, 02036 330913

29 MARCH

- **Stockton-on-Tees**, Vectis, 01642 750616

30 MARCH

- **Stockton-on-Tees**, Vectis, 01642 750616

31 MARCH

- **Chippenham**, Wessex Auction Rooms, 01249 720888

1 APRIL

- **Chippenham**, Wessex Auction Rooms, 01249 720888

» AUCTIONEER LISTING

BEDFORDSHIRE

■ W&H PEACOCK

Bedford, Tel: 01234 266 366

toys@peacockauction.co.uk

www.peacockauction.co.uk



BERKSHIRE

■ SPECIAL AUCTION SERVICES

Newbury, Tel: 01635 580595

mail@specialauctionservices.com

hugo@specialauctionservices.com

www.specialauctionservices.com



BRISTOL

■ EAST BRISTOL AUCTIONS

Hanham, Tel: 0117 967 1000

info@eastbristol.co.uk

www.eastbristol.co.uk



CHESHIRE

■ UK TOY & MODEL AUCTIONS

Ledsham, Chester

Tel: 01270 652773 / 07892 870729

www.uktoyauctions.com

enquiries@uktoyauctions.com



■ BRITISH TOY AUCTIONS

Runcorn, Tel: 01928 579032

enquiries@britishtoyauctions.co.uk

www.britishtoyauctions.co.uk



COUNTY DURHAM

■ VECTIS AUCTIONS LTD

Thornaby, Stockton on Tees

Tel: 01642 750616

www.vectis.co.uk



DEVON

■ GREENSLADE TAYLOR HUNT

Tiverton, Tel: 01823 332525

www.gth.net

antiques.saleroom@gth.net



■ PIERS MOTLEY AUCTIONS

Exmouth, Tel: 01395 267403

www.piersmotleyauctions.co.uk

info@piersmotleyauctions.co.uk



ESSEX

■ STACEY'S AUCTIONEERS AND VALUERS

Rayleigh, Tel: 01268 777122

info@staceyauction.com

www.staceyauction.com



HAMPSHIRE

■ LYMINGTON AUCTIONS

Lymington, Tel: 01590 679487

admin@lymingtonauctions.co.uk

www.lymingtonauctions.co.uk



HERTFORDSHIRE

■ EXCALIBUR AUCTIONS

Kings Langley, Tel: 02036 330913

www.excaliburauctions.com



KENT

■ C&T AUCTIONEERS AND VALUERS

Kent, Tel: 01233 510050

enquiries@candtauctions.co.uk

www.candtauctions.co.uk



LINCOLNSHIRE

■ GOLDING, YOUNG & MAWER

Bourne Tel: 01778 422686

Grantham Tel: 01476 565118

Lincoln Tel: 01522 524984

www.goldingyoung.com



■ BATEMANS AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS

Stamford, Tel: 01780 766466

office@batemans.com

www.batemans.com



■ UNIQUE AUCTIONS

Lincoln, Tel: 01522 690444

office@unique-auctions.com

www.unique-auctions.com



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

■ NORTHGATE AUCTION ROOMS LTD

Newark,

Tel: 01636 605905

www.northgateauctionroomsnewark.co.uk



SHROPSHIRE

■ MULLOCKS SPECIALIST AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS

Church Stretton, Tel: 01694 771771

auctions@mullocksuctions.co.uk

www.mullocksuctions.co.uk



SOMERSET

■ GREENSLADE TAYLOR HUNT

Taunton, Tel: 01823 332525

www.gth.net

antiques.saleroom@gth.net



STAFFORDSHIRE

■ HANSONS AUCTIONEERS

Stafford, Tel: 01889 882397

www.hansonsauctioneers.co.uk

mholler@hansonsauctioneers.co.uk



SUFFOLK

■ DURRANTS

Beccles, Tel: 01502 713490

AuctionRooms@durrants.com



■ LACY, SCOTT & KNIGHT

Bury St Edmunds,

Tel: 01284 748 623

www.lskauktioncentre.co.uk



SURREY

■ EWBANK'S AUCTIONEERS

Woking, Tel: 01483 223 101

www.ewbanks.co.uk

info@ewbanks.co.uk



SUSSEX

■ WALLIS & WALLIS

Lewes, Tel: 01273 480208

www.wallisandwallis.co.uk



WARWICKSHIRE

■ WARWICK & WARWICK

Warwick, Tel: 01926 499031

www.warwickandwarwick.com



WEST SUSSEX

■ TOOVEYS

Washington, Tel: 01903 891955

auctions@tooveys.com

www.tooveys.com



WILTSHIRE

■ WESSEX AUCTION ROOMS

Chippenham, Tel: 01249 720888

tim@wessexauctionrooms.co.uk

www.wessexauctionrooms.co.uk



YORKSHIRE

■ SHEFFIELD AUCTION GALLERY

Sheffield, Tel: 0114 281 6161

www.sheffieldauctiongallery.com



■ HARTLEYS AUCTIONEERS

Ilkley, Tel: 01943 816363

info@hartleysauctions.co.uk

www.hartleysauctions.co.uk



■ TENNANTS AUCTIONEERS

Leyburn, Tel: 01969 623780

enquiry@tennants-ltd.co.uk

www.tennants.co.uk



INTERNATIONAL

■ TRAINS, PLANES & AUTOMOBILES

Sydney, Australia +612 4787 7974

auctions@antiquetoys.com.au

antiquetoys.com.au



» RETAILERS

Carkits and TV Toys.
1000'S OF MODEL CAR KITS & TV MODELS
Including AMT, Airfix, Aurora, Monogram,
MPC, Revell, Tamiya and Slot Car spares.
RTR, bodies, kits, sets and more.
For Carkits/TV/Slot lists send a cheque for £5.95
or any lists available by e-mail/pdf doc on request.
101 Kensington Road, Southend-on-Sea,
Essex, SS1 2SY, England. Tel: 01702 615397
e-mail: robert.dobinson@btopenworld.com
Cheques/P.Orders payable to R. Dobinson.

DEVON

KINGSBRIDGE ANTIQUES & CRAFT CENTRE - As seen on Antiques Road Trip, Kingsbridge Antiques & Craft Centre on the corner of Church Street & Ebrington Street, TQ7 1DE, just 5 minutes walk from the Quay Car Park and the Bus Station. An ever changing stock of Diecast Toys, Model Railway, Books, Militaria and Railwayana. Open Monday to Saturday. Tel: **01548 856002** Web: **www.kingsbridgeantiques.co.uk**

KENT

KIT KRAZY Largest selection of plastic kits in UK from 1950s to date, plus much more. Collections bought or swapped. 303 The Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent, DA6 8DT. T/F: **020 8298 7177**

NORTHERN IRELAND

MY OLD TOYBOX For collectable diecast and kits, Matchbox, Dinky, Corgi, Action Man, Star Wars, sci-fi, Subbuteo, etc. The Old Toybox, Unit 14, Smithfield Market, Belfast BT1 1JE. Tel: **07719 100483**
Email: **james1gilliland@hotmail.com** Web: **www.myoldtoyboxbelfast.co.uk**

COLLECTAKIT
35 Chapel Ave, Addlestone, Surrey KT15 1UH
(evenings only - we are not a shop)
Buying and selling Obsolete Plastic Kits
If you are not on our FREE mailing list, a large stamped addressed envelope will bring you our latest list. Alternatively ring us in the evening. We have also published 'The Enthusiasts Guide to Airfix Models' available only from the above address.
01932 840766 / sales@collectakit.co.uk

STAFFORDSHIRE

TIMELESS TOYS (UTTOXETER)

Come and view our extensive range of new, used, vintage and collectable toys. We buy, sell & swap all vintage toys. Contact Timeless Toys, Strawberry Garden Centre, Bramshall Road, Uttoxeter, Staffs ST14 5BE Tel **07939 451595**

TUTBURY MODELS We buy and sell new and second-hand Model Railways including - Hornby, Wrenn, Triang, Marklin, Bachmann, Lima, Dapol, Farish, LGB, etc. Contact: Barry Tutbury, Mill Mews, Lower High Street, Tutbury, Nr. Burton-upon-Trent. Tel: **01283 814777**

WALES

RETRO COLLECTABLES

We operate out of Wales but cover the UK. We purchase toy collections. Please see our website **www.retro-collectables.co.uk** We offer a service for individuals to sell their toys or collections. **07790851840**

STAMP INSURANCE SERVICES
C G I Services Limited
INSURING COLLECTABLES SINCE 1973
Authorised & Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority No. 300573
LET US INSURE YOUR COLLECTION
REPLACEMENT VALUE.
ALL RISKS, NO EXCESS
Stamps / Postcards - £6,250 £30 p.a. plus IPT
Other Collectables - £5,000 £35 p.a. plus IPT
SEPARATE POLICIES FOR SOCIETIES AND DEALERS
Please write, email or telephone for a quotation
C G I Services Limited, 29 Bowhay Lane,
EXETER EX4 1PE tel: **01392 433 949**
mail@stampinsurance.co.uk

WARWICKSHIRE

METROPOLIS VINTAGE TOYS

We are specialists in vintage collectables, particularly TV and Film related toys, Action Man and other Action Figures, also selling Dinky, Corgi and Model Railways. Mail order worldwide is always a pleasure. Your surplus quality toys are always wanted and top prices are paid for fine examples. Open 11am - 6pm Thursday - Saturday. 41b Smith Street, Warrick, CV34 4JA. Tel: **01926 400311** **www.metropolistoys.co.uk** Email: **chris@metropolistoys.co.uk**

WEST MIDLANDS

SPRINGHILL MODELS and Cards Stockists of Corgi, Oxford Diecast, Greenlight, Whitebox, and others. Open Thurs Fri 10am - 5pm, Sat 10am - 4pm. Contact: Pete Skilton, 4 Springhill Lane, Penn, Wolverhampton, W/ Mids, WV4 4SH. Tel: **01902 341302** Web: **www.springhillmodels.co.uk** Email: **pete@springhillmodels.co.uk**

YORKSHIRE

DALESMAN DIECAST Vast range of diecast models available, many at discounted prices.

TRAIN & TOY AUCTIONS
Auctions every month
Visit **antiquetoys.com.au** for details of our auctions
• Live bidding online
• Absentee bidding by email, phone or web
TRAINS, PLANES & AUTOMOBILES
Purveyors of antique toys since 1987

Beau Geste
New Toy Soldiers
Delhi Durbar 1903
State Elephant
of Rampur
www.beau-geste.com info@beau-geste.com

Collections and unwanted stock purchased for cash. Contact: Ken Hartshorne, Victoria Rd, Guiseley, Leeds, LS20 8DG Tel: **01943 873420** Email: **info@dalesmandiecast.co.uk** Web: **www.dalesmandiecast.co.uk**

WANTED

VINTAGE FIREWORK COLLECTOR. Do not light the blue touch paper and burn British Heritage, private collector will pay cash and collect from anywhere, licensed explosive storage, call Tony on **07956 506300**

YOUR SHOP

TO ADVERTISE YOUR business within the classified pages of the next issue please call Kristina Green on **01778 392096** or email her on **kristina.green@warnersgroup.co.uk**



THE CORGI MODEL PRICE GUIDE

Dedicated to one of the biggest influences in toy and collecting trends worldwide

Appealing to collectors and enthusiasts of all ages, this guide charts the early years from the days of Mettoy to the launch of Corgi Toys.

Featuring price guides of popular Corgi models, a spotlight on 'Mr Corgi', Marcel Van Cleemput, a deep dive into the many accessories and characters produced by the company and MORE!

DOWNLOAD YOUR COPY TODAY AT
www.ccof gb.uk/corgi_price_guide
Available as a digital download only

Items shown for illustration purposes only



March 2022 Auction Dates

- Thursday 10th - Specialist Diecast
- Friday 11th - Specialist Diecast
- Thursday 24th - TV & Film Related
- Friday 25th - Model Train Sale
- Tuesday 29th - General Toy Sale
- Wednesday 30th - Specialist Diecast & Tinplate Sale

Auctions commence at 10.00am unless otherwise stated - dates are correct at time of print but are subject to change

Catalogues & online bidding at vectis.co.uk & invaluable.com

Vectis Head Office - Fleck Way, Thornaby,
Stockton-on-Tees, TS17 9JZ - **Tel: + 44 (0)1642 750616**

Vectis Oxford Office - Unit 3, Hobley Court, North Leigh
Business Park, Nursery Road, Witney, Oxfordshire, OX29 6AN
Tel: + 44 (0)1993 709424

Please check our website for forthcoming auction dates - enquiries at admin@vectis.co.uk

Vectis Auctions - The World's Leading Auction House for Collectable Toys

Vectis



SELLING YOUR TOYS & MODELS?

Warwick and Warwick have an expanding requirement for toys and model collections, British and worldwide and for diecast models, trains/train sets, model soldiers and toys of individual value. Our customer base is increasing dramatically and we need an ever larger supply of quality material to keep pace with demand. The market has never been stronger and if you are considering the sale of your collection, now is the time to act.

FREE VALUATIONS

We will provide a free, professional and without obligation valuation of your collection. Either we will make you a fair, binding private treaty offer, or we will recommend inclusion of your property in our next specialist public auction.

FREE TRANSPORTATION

We can arrange insured transportation of your collection to our Warwick offices completely free of charge. If you decline our offer, we ask you to cover the return carriage costs only.

FREE VISITS

Visits by our valuers are possible anywhere in the country or abroad, usually within 48 hours, in order to value larger collections. Please telephone for details.

ADVISORY DAYS

We are staging a series of advisory days in all areas of the UK, please visit our website or telephone for details.

EXCELLENT PRICES

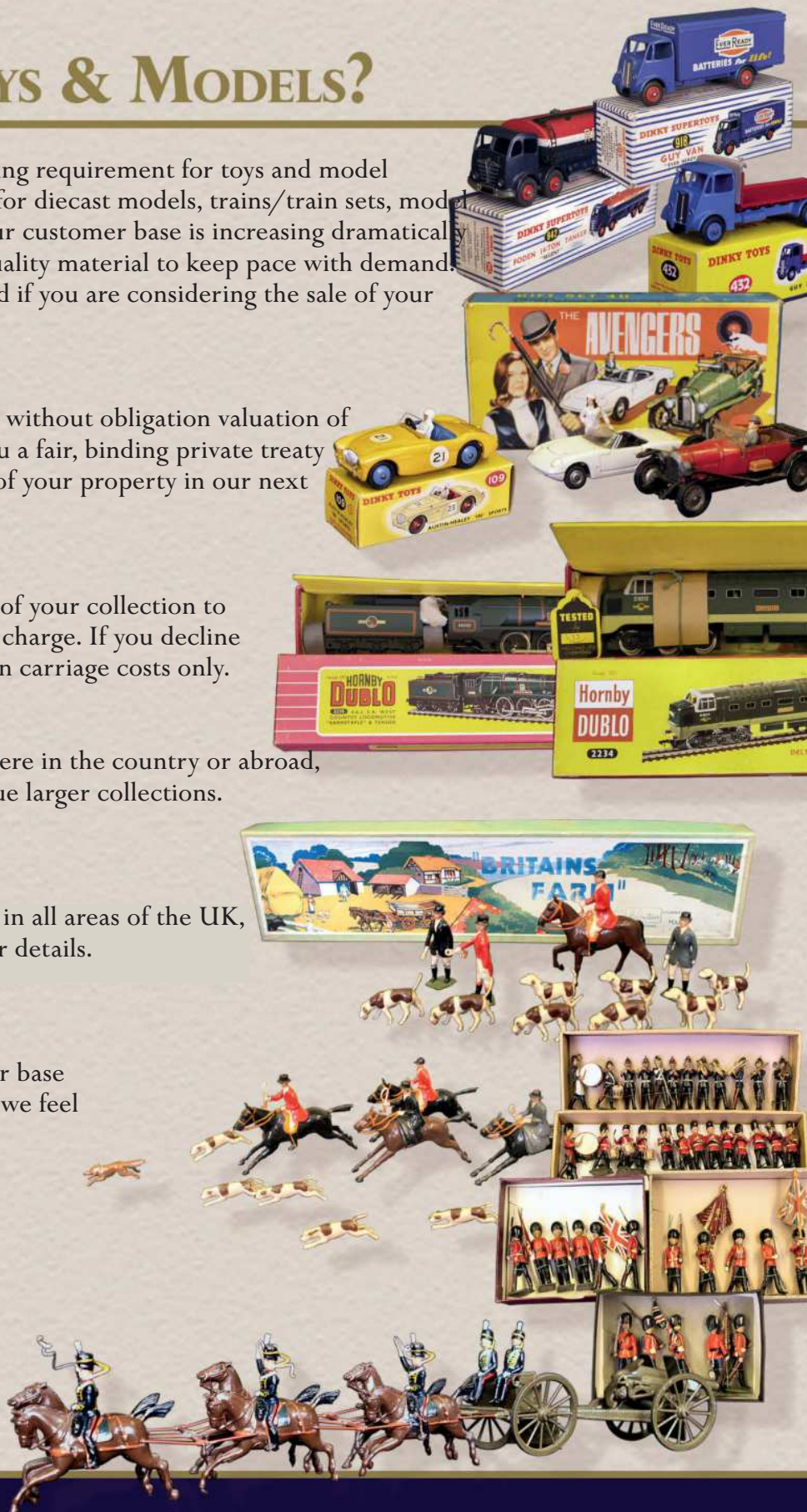
Because of the strength of our customer base we are in a position to offer prices that we feel sure will exceed your expectations.

ACT NOW

Telephone or email Richard Beale today with details of your property.

ONLINE BIDDING

Available via www.easyliveauction.com



Warwick & Warwick Ltd.
Auctioneers and Valuers

Chalon House, Scar Bank, Millers Road,
Warwick CV34 5DB

Tel: 01926 499031 Fax: 01926 491906

E-mail: richard.beale@warwickandwarwick.com

www.warwickandwarwick.com



Warwick & Warwick

Read more from us...

If you have enjoyed Collectors Gazette here's six more magazines from us to try



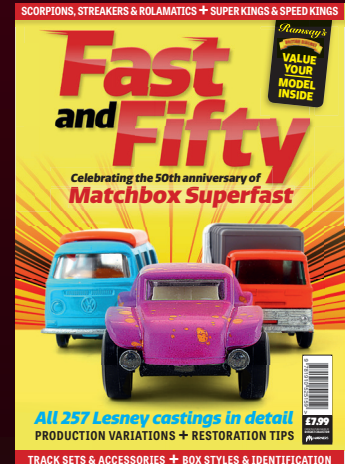
Diecast Collector

The UK's only magazine for diecast covering vintage collectables and brand-new releases.



Toy Collectors Price Guide

The only annual featuring auction prices and in-depth features on a range of collecting topics.



Fast & Fifty

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of Matchbox Superfast.



The Corgi Story

Celebrating 60 years of the iconic Corgi name.



Stamp Collector

All the latest news, information and market insight to get the most from your hobby.



Coin Collector

Giving you all of the information, news and expert advice to build your collection.

★★★★★ Leave us a review ★★★★★

If you have enjoyed this magazine then do the next thing to shouting it from the rooftops and leave us a review instead! We all like to know when something is good and if something has been rated highly by others. Leave us a review to let new customers know what you think to **Collectors Gazette**.

The Battle of Britain

IN COLOUR



“Praise where due. This is the best magazine available which I have read - I am very impressed. I thoroughly enjoyed reading each chapter and it was written in such an easy style. It covered every aspect and I was saddened when I reached the end.”

This 164-page special collector's edition commemorates the 80th Anniversary of the momentous Battle of Britain, making it the perfect gift for any aviation or Battle of Britain enthusiast.

THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN IN COLOUR



The Battle Looms

The Battle of Britain was one of the most iconic battles of the Second World War, embedding itself indelibly into the nation's consciousness. Earlier, the Battle of France could easily have spelled defeat before the air battles got underway in July 1940.

As for the outbreak of war in September 1939, there followed eight months of what became known as the 'Phoney War'. It was clear that large-scale fighting would ultimately follow, and a British Expeditionary Force was sent to France before the end of that year. As part of the BEF, a large Air Component was supplemented by an Advanced Air Brigade. In total, there are forces amounted to six squadrons, six of which were Fighter Squadrons, and the remainder of the RAF force in France comprised largely light bombers and Army Co-operation squadrons. Eventually, however, the 'sitting' became the 'fighting'.

On 10 May 1940, German forces launched their all-out assault on France and the Low Countries and what followed in Belgium, the Netherlands etc, was the complete collapse of these countries under the overwhelming might of German military power. Across France, German forces moved inexorably towards the English Channel and while the French and British tried desperately to stem the advance, the situation became ever more desperate.

Predicted Catastrophe
When the fighting had broken out in France, the BEF's Air Component were in almost certain trouble, and it was not to be long before they were to be sent to the Channel, and then to the sea.

BACKGROUND TO BATTLE

Left: A Hurricane of 501 Squadron, sent to France for an operational sortie at Bethune, France, May 1940. An RAF Hurricane High Dive bomber, sent to France for an operational sortie, was shot down by German fighters. Right: As the strategic picture of Europe, the steady advance of German forces was evident. The RAF's Fighter Command was stretched to the limit, and the Battle of Britain was underway.



THE RAF FIGHTER PILOT



Left: A Hurricane of 501 Squadron, sent to France for an operational sortie at Bethune, France, May 1940. An RAF Hurricane High Dive bomber, sent to France for an operational sortie, was shot down by German fighters. Right: As the strategic picture of Europe, the steady advance of German forces was evident. The RAF's Fighter Command was stretched to the limit, and the Battle of Britain was underway.

It was a hard battle, and the RAF's Fighter Command was stretched to the limit. The Battle of Britain was underway, and the RAF's Fighter Command was stretched to the limit.

It was a hard battle, and the RAF's Fighter Command was stretched to the limit. The Battle of Britain was underway, and the RAF's Fighter Command was stretched to the limit.

THE RAF FIGHTER PILOT



It was a hard battle, and the RAF's Fighter Command was stretched to the limit. The Battle of Britain was underway, and the RAF's Fighter Command was stretched to the limit.



DOWNLOAD NOW ORDER A PAPER COPY